

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Bryan Hough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	Miles Braswell, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem David Moore	Don Roper, Chief of Police
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Brian Reagan, Deputy Police Chief
Councilman Charles McCorkle	Tony Walker, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Dave Johnson, Utilities Director/City Engineer
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	

Invocation

Councilman Charles McCorkle gave the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Caleb Burr led the Pledge of Allegiance

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Hough advised that there is a parcel number correction for the Public Hearing. The parcel is #304155. With no additional changes to the agenda, Mayor Pre Tem Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Liens for Clearing of High Weeds and Grass
 - 209 Howard Street
 - 211 Howard Street
 - 511 West Henry Street
 - 132 Farm Springs Drive

2. Approval of minutes from the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting
3. Approval of minutes from the July 20, 2020 Council Meeting

Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Eagle Scout project at Mountain Island Park at Mount Holly Mountain Bike Trails

Mr. Jusko introduced Caleb Burr and explained that Caleb is coming before the Council tonight to introduce his Eagle Scout project that he will be working in conjunction with the Tarheel Trailblazers and Troop 61. Caleb advised that 3 bridges are needed along the mountain bike trail being built by the Tarheel Trailblazers. He came before Council to ask for approval to build one of these mountain bike trail bridges as his Eagle Scout Project. He advised that there would be no cost to the City and hopes to have the project complete by the end of the year. Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve Caleb Burr's Eagle Scout project at Mountain Island Park at Mount Holly Mountain

Bike Trails. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing for the traffic control device in the Riverfront subdivision

Mr. DuPont advised that at the September 10, 2020 Council Meeting staff presented a traffic control request made by a resident of the Riverfront Community. Council directed staff to evaluate the area and bring back a recommendation. After consideration of the data from the traffic study carried out by the Police Department, staff recommends the installation of six (6) new traffic signs within the Riverfront Subdivision. The signs will consist of four (4) new “25 MPH Speed Limit” signs and two (2) new stop signs. The total cost would be \$360.

At this time, Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to open the public hearing for the traffic control device in the Riverfront subdivision. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

ReGina Fazenbaker, 125 Huckleberry Lane—Ms. Fazenbaker commented that some of the homeowners are here tonight to put a kink in a few things. She thanked Council for hearing the property owners speak and giving some options.

Krista Francis, 268 Riverfront—Ms. Francis came before Council to ask for consideration of speed tables instead of signs. She advised that the speeders are not the residents in the neighborhood and everybody on the road will be effected but should not punished for others bad behavior. She commented that speed tables are functional in other places and the residents of Riverfront pay taxes and deserve this.

Michael Haubert, 133 Lighthouse Road—Mr. Haubert advised that he has been part of the HOA for about 20 years and commented that he would like to encourage the Police Department to enforce the speed limit in the neighborhood.

Randy Folsum, 132 Lighthouse—Mr. Folsum commented that there is more than speeding issue, there is also a safety issue with cars parking all over the place. He commented that the law needs to be enforced and start ticketing cars that are parked on the street.

Josh McClure, 121 Steamboat Drive—Mr. McClure commented that traffic calming measures are needed in the neighborhood. He advised that the main parkway needs to be taken care of but the sides streets do as well. He proposed another 3-way stop at the end of Steamboat.

Landon Roberts, 133 Riverfront—Mr. Roberts advised that he is against the speed signs. He can attest to all that live in the neighborhood that signs will not stop people from speeding.

Leeann Howe, 276 Riverfront—Ms. Howell commented that she has stats that the signs only slow people down by .4 seconds. She personally almost got hit and something throughout the whole neighborhood.

David Howell, 276 Riverfront—Mr. Howell commented that all studies show that stop signs do not stop speeding. He does not want to be punished for other people bad behavior. He already doesn't feel secure and now a stop sign is proposed in front of his house.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Meadows advised that this has been an issue for a long time and would like to hear what the rest of Council has to say in regard to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Moore commented that he feels like we should look into this a little longer and also feels the first step is enforcement. Councilwoman Harris added that she would also like to see some information on street parking. Mayor Hough commented that from what he heard tonight the public feels signage would be ineffective. He advised that people speed as much between speed humps as they do between stops signs. Councilwoman Shoemaker advised that she has gotten as many emails against speed humps as she has gotten for them. Councilman Meadows commented that on street parking is also a problem in the neighborhood. After further discussion, Councilman Meadows made a motion to place stop signs at both ends of Steamboat and step up enforcement by the Police Department. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. Public hearing, regarding a request by Eric Lanier, for a rezoning of a portion of parcel #304155 from R-1 Gaston County to Conditional District Single Family

Mr. DuPont advised that staff has been working with Lanier since 2018. Mr. DuPont advised that the developer has agreed to all the conditions placed on the property. Mr. DuPont added that the Planning Commission approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to open the public hearing to consider a request by Eric Lanier, for a rezoning of a portion of parcel #304155 from R-1 Gaston County to Conditional District Single Family. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. With no one signed up to speak, Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the request by Eric Lanier, for a rezoning of a portion of parcel #304155 from R-1 Gaston County to Conditional District Single Family. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. Public hearing to consider a text amendment to Article 6, Section 6.5, and Article 7 in the Zoning Ordinance to allow for drive-through restaurants, fronting Beatty Drive (Hwy 273), in the Mount Holly Mixed-Use District

Councilwoman Harris made a motion to open the public hearing to consider a text amendment to Article 6, Section 6.5, and Article 7 in the Zoning Ordinance to allow for drive-through restaurants, fronting Beatty Drive (Hwy 273), in the Mount Holly Mixed-Use District. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. With no one signed up to speak, Councilman Meadows made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the text amendment to Article 6, Section 6.5, and Article 7 in the Zoning Ordinance to allow for drive-through restaurants, fronting Beatty Drive (Hwy 273), in the Mount Holly Mixed-Use District. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

No one was signed up to speak

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Approval of Funding Option and Mount Holly Police Department Recruiting and Retention Plan

Chief Roper reported that since the work session another Officer has received an offer. He advised that the Officer is a loyal employee and is waiting to see what happens tonight before making the final decision. Deputy Chief Reagan addressed the budget concerns in regard to the plan as directed by the Council at the last meeting. Council Meadows commented that if the City Council is going to support this plan additional funds need to be added for sign on bonuses and retention of current officers. Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the Mount Holly Police Department Recruiting and Retention Plan with added funds for sign on bonuses and retention. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. Councilwoman Harris made a second motion to approve a budget amendment for \$100,000 from the General Fund to cover expenses to the Police budget for the implementation of this plan. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(3 and 5)

Councilman McCorkle made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(3 and 5). Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. The time was 8:08 p.m.

Councilwoman Harris made a motion to return to open session. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

The time was 8:30p.m.

Mayor Hough advised there was no action taken during Closed Session.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to adjourn the November 9, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.