

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 8, 2010
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	Danny Jackson, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Breyare	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Greg Beal, Senior Planner
Councilman Brookshire	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Perry Toomey	Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Mark Jusko, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order by Mayor Hough

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

Invocation

Reverend Jeff Bost, Pastor of the Westview Presbyterian Church, gave 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.

At this time, Mr. Jackson introduced Ed Smith the new Recreation Director that started with the City on November 1st.

Set Agenda

Mayor Hough asked Council for any additions or amendments to the meeting agenda. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Piggyback Bid for the Garbage Truck
2. Approval of Budget Amendment for Catawba Heights Fire Station
3. Appointment of Becky Conder, Jamie Guffey and Danny Jackson as Deputy Finance Officers
4. Approval of the minutes for the September 27, 2010 work session meeting
5. Approval of the minutes for the October 11, 2010 business meeting

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation to Detective Mike Addis for Achieving his Advanced Certificate
2. Presentation to Corporal Michael Lloyd for Achieving his Advanced Certificate
3. Presentation to Sergeant Jeff Skidmore for Achieving his Advanced Certificate

The Mayor and City Council along with Chief Belk presented Sergeant Jeff Skidmore with his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. Chief Belk explained that the Advanced Certificate is one of the most prestigious achievements that a Police Officer can obtain. He advised that Detective Addis and Corporal Lloyd have also achieved this same designation but are unable to attend the meeting tonight. He added that Detective Addis has also served 2 terms in Iraq. Mayor Hough asked that they come to the December Meeting to receive recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing on with the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission Designating the Cannon House at 137 East Charlotte Avenue a Historic Property

John Russell, Chairman of Gaston County Historic Preservation was present to explain the process of how a property is chosen to be considered for the Historic Preservation list in Gaston County. He advised that the property owner has to make a request to be put on the historic preservation list. If the property is inside the city limits, then a public hearing has to be held before the City Council. Mr. Russell advised that the benefits to being place in the Historic Preservation list is recognition and a tax break. He then clarified the location of the house and gave a brief history of the property.

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

With no one signed up to speak, Councilman Moore made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Councilman Brookshire made a motion to accept 137 East Charlotte Avenue as a Historic Property. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Public Hearing on Design Guidelines for Single Family Homes

Mr. Beal reviewed a brief timeline of events that led up to the proposed guidelines for single family homes. He advised that this item has been discussed by the Council at previous meetings and staff has made the recommended changes. Mr. Beal explained that the Planning Commission made a unanimous recommendation to approve the proposed recommendation.

Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

With no one signed up to speak, Councilman Moore made a motion to return to regular session. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

At this time, Councilman Hope suggested that the 12:12 pitch roof be removed from the regulations. Council agreed. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the amendment to the design guidelines for single family homes with the omission of the 12:12 pitch roof. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

3. Public Hearing on Design Guidelines for Commercial Construction

Mr. Beal reviewed the proposed design guidelines for new commercial construction that is located within the zoning jurisdiction, city limits and ETJ of the City outside the existing gateway areas where there are already architectural requirements.

Councilman Moore made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Barbara Lawrence

121 Southgate Lane

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Lawrence thanked the City Council to for taking these type steps that will ensure positive community growth in Mount Holly. She advised that Mount Holly has a lot of potential and these design standards are a great opportunity for the City.

Jeff Meadows

140 Tom Sawyer Lane

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Meadows commented that he would like to commend the Staff for developing these guidelines in such a way that is not too restrictive for businesses but raise the standards to another level.

Bill Gary

106 Forest Hills Drive

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Gary commented that he would like to echo what Mr. Meadows said. He feels this is a positive way for the City to move forward.

With no one else signed up to speak, Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to approve the design guidelines for new commercial construction as proposed. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present

4. Public Hearing on the Intent to Permanently Close Crossover Street

Mr. Jackson reviewed the process up to this time that had taken place in regard to closing the proposed Crossover Street. He advised that now we are in the public hearing stage of the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

With no one signed up to speak, Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

At this time, Mr. Jackson reported that staff is still looking for additional information from CSX and would recommend not voting on this issue until the information is received.

At this time, Mayor Hough took the opportunity to recognize the Veteran's in honor of the upcoming Veterans Day Holiday.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

Rita Bruhn

105 Sunset Drive

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Bruhn commented that she is in attendance tonight because of the interest in regard to the greenway. She advised that she is concerned about the maintenance aspect of the greenway. She advised that the tax base is shrinking therefore the Council should concentrate more on Economic Development.

Todd Young

1107 Hoover Street

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Young thanked the Council for the opportunity to discuss the greenway. He advised that he is here as a lifelong resident of Mount Holly as well as the President of one of the local banks. He further advised that his company is a contributor to the Community Foundation and a supports the greenway proposal. He encouraged Council to move forward with the greenway project.

Pat Hubbard

500 Parkview Drive

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Hubbard commented that being a lifelong resident of Belmont and Mount Holly, as well as serving on the Mount Holly City Council for a number of years, she feels the greenway would improve the quality of life in Mount Holly. She advised that the “leather” is charged with making the decisions that are best for the City and by partnering with the Foundation on the greenways; she feels would be an example of good stewards of taxpayers’ money. She asked Council to please consider approving the MOU.

Chris Nudi

164 Tom Sawyer Lane
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Nudi commented that he does not see the need for the greenway as the City already has Tuck Park. He advised that Council should concentrate on lowering taxes and the waste treatment plant.

Dave Iannarelli

146 Tom Sawyer Lane
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Iannarelli commented that he lived on McClain Park Greenway and they constantly had people walking through their property and had their house broken into as well. He advised that he did not move to Mount Holly to live on a greenway and from his understanding the proposed greenway will join his property.

Tori Iannarelli

160 Tom Sawyer Lane
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Iannarelli commented that the City has no idea what they would be getting into by supporting the construction of the greenway. She advised that the Police are not up for the task of patrolling greenways.

Vicki Clemmer

Old Hickory Grove Road
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Clemmer advised that she does not live in the City Limits but feels it should not be the citizen’s place to maintain greenways. She further commented that she feels it is a conflict of interest for the City Attorneys wife to serve on the Board of Directors for the Foundation. Ms. Clemmer then asked how long it takes for the city to return a request for public information.

Suzanne Griffin

110 Oakland Street
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Griffin commented that she is before Council tonight asking that the correct decision be made in regard to the greenway and the MOU. She further commented that the citizens of Mount Holly voted on the Council to represent the City and therefore the Council should make the decision tonight. She advised that where there is no leadership in the Community, progress stands still.

Bridget Nudi

164 Tom Sawyer Lane
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Nudi commented that she and her husband have made a huge effort to get up to speed on the proposed greenway. At first she thought that a greenway would be a great thing to have. But since then, she has had time to rethink her original decision and feeling the impact of the economy does not think that it is a good time to construct a greenway. Therefore she has to oppose the idea of a greenway in Mount Holly.

Susan Lambert

165 West Walnut Avenue
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Lambert commented that she has lived here since 2006. She advised that she moved to Mount Holly because of the proposed greenway system. She commented that Mount Holly is a wonderful place to live and the greenway would be good for the economy.

Barbara Lawrence

121 Southgate Lane
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Lawrence commented that she started out renting in Mount Holly and then decided to buy. She feels that the greenway would be positive asset for the City. She added that she has high expectations for Mount Holly and the time to move forward is now.

Bob Linster
104 Crestwood Drive
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Linster commented that the proposed Carolina Thread Trail was a selling point for us when he bought his house in Mount Holly. Since then he retired and started a business here. He added that he is not from Mount Holly but got here as quick as he could.

Cindy Michael
406 Timberlane Drive
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Michael commented that she is here on behalf of the Mount Holly Historical Society and on November 14th there will be an event with 3 authors here in the Grand Hall. She invited everyone to attend and bring pictures and any Mount Holly History.

Bobby Black
142 Oakland Street
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Black commented that this proposed MOU does not include any property in the Riverfront Community. This project is just for the first 1.7 miles. The MOU does not include a tax increase or does it include the maintenance costs. He advised that the long term sustainability of the Foundation is sharper than ever.

Chloe Kaylor
130 Oakland Street
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Kaylor commented that we “the FROGS” have promised to maintain the greenway. She advised that she has been a frog since before she was a tadpole and feels the greenway would be an excellent investment for the City and her future.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Approval of the Bid for the Community Development Block Grant

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the award of bid to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associate to oversee the CDBG Revitalization Project. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Consideration and Approval of the Greenway MOU with the Community Foundation

Mr. Michael reported that included in their packets is the revised copy of the MOU. Mayor Hough advised that if Council agrees to move forward with the approval, the City is not obligated to any specific timeframe and the MOU can be amended by the current or future Council’s at any given time. At this time, Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the proposed MOU. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. Councilman Bishop stated his concerns regarding the maintenance of the greenway and Mayor Pro Tem Breyare stated her concern in regard to emergency vehicle access to the greenway. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare added that she thinks the City should be more concerned about waste water and less concerned about greenways. Councilman Hope commented that maintenance of the greenway. He advised that the City has not committed to the maintenance aspect of the greenway and when the time comes if the City cannot afford to maintain greenways then it won’t happen. At this time, Councilman Hope called for the question. Mayor Hough asked everyone in favor to raise their right hand. Councilmen, Bishop, Brookshire,

Hope, Moore and Toomey voted in favor of the MOU. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare was opposed. (Motion carried 5-1)

3. Consideration and Approval of the Bid for the Bar Screen

Mr. Friday advised that State Utility Contractors was the apparent low bid for the bar screen at \$244,000. Councilman Hope made a motion to award the contract to State Utility Contractors for the amount of \$244,000. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Councilman Toomey made a motion to enter into closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to come out of closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Mayor Hough advised that no action was taken during closed session.

REPORTS

Councilman Bishop asked for an update on the survey for the Sandy Ford interconnect. Mr. Jackson replied that he would ask Mr. Friday to update Council as part of the weekly update.

Councilman Toomey asked the status of the paving contract. Mr. Jackson responded that the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and he will provide Council with an additional update as part of the weekly update.

Mayor Hough gave a brief update on the waste treatment options.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn the November 8, 2010 Council meeting. Councilman Hope seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.