

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
November 8, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The regular meeting 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

Mayor Pro-Tem Phyllis Harris

Councilman Michael Helms

Councilwoman Pat Hubbard

Councilman Bobby Black

Councilman Bryan Hough

officers, along with Officer Dewey Hager.

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols

Planning & Zoning Dir. Danny Jackson

City Attorney Kemp Michael

Police Chief Bishop, Captain Davis, and six

Councilman Jim Hope was absent due to recovering from surgery.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Rev. Keith Hearn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout Masters Rick Connell, who has brought scouts several times to earn badges, along with Mr. Philemon, led the troop.

MINUTES

Councilman Helms **MOVED** to approve the minutes of October 11, 1999, as written, seconded by Councilman Hough, with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

City Attorney Michael stated that staff recommends that two public hearings be tabled until next meeting because the Planning Director has been sick.

Motion: Councilman Helms **MOVED** to table Public Hearing #1 on amending the Subdivision Regulations regarding street lights, and Public Hearing #2 on watershed overlay wetlands buffer, until the Dec. 13 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Hough.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS

#1 (a) To Consider Awarding Service Weapon to Retiree

Mayor McLean read a resolution to place Sergeant Dewey Hager's sidearm on surplus and award it to him upon his retirement (copy attached).

Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to adopt the resolution; Councilwoman Harris seconded.

Vote: all in favor. **CARRIED.**

#1(b) Recognition of Dewey Hager for Thirty Years of Service

Mayor McLean and the Council recognized Sergeant Hager for 30 years of service to the City of Mount Holly. Mayor read a plaque and presented it to him along with a check and a watch. Police Chief Bishop presented a plaque with his badge from the Department. Sergeant Hager said he did not expect this and thanked them. Mt. Holly gave him a chance to be a police officer and hopes he did something to help the community. He said it seems like it was just a short time ago that he started. It was hard to leave the department, and he will miss a lot of people, but he thanked them. He said Mount Holly is a good place to live. Everyone congratulated him.

Added

Phyllis Harris said that the Miss Mount Holly pageant has presented to the City a plaque with the names of the past Miss Mount Hollies; the plaque has places for the upcoming years.

#2 Bill Lineberger Requests City of Mount Holly Join Gaston County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Bill Lineberger thanked the Council for its commitment to the Chamber and especially the assistance from Sherry Borgsdorf. He said that the membership in the Council has changed, and for us to have the support of the Chamber, we must be an active paid member of the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce. The annual fee for the City as a non-profit entity is \$165.00.

Motion: Councilman Black **MOVED** to authorize the City to join the Gaston County Chamber at a fee of \$165 annually, seconded by Councilman Hough.

Vote: all in favor. **CARRIED.**

#3 To Consider Removal of Deerfield Stop Signs

Cindy Broadrick, 544 Deerfield Drive. She had a petition for the recently intalled stop signs in Deerfield Subdivision to be removed. We feel there is an excessive use of them in very short distances. She realized the intent was to allow children to play and to slow traffic. The children are being given the wrong impression. She has two children, and when they were little, we did not allow them to play in the road. We could use a sign at the entrance that there is no outlet. Children are not looking for cars. They line up acorns in the street; they lay in the street and listen to manholes. She analyzed the signatures on the previous petition, and found only 7 are people who live in the subdivision. She gave copies of her information to the City Manager.

#4 To Consider Speeding on East Glendale Avenue

Lester Wilson, Sr. said that Central Park is at the bottom of the hill, but the speed check machine was at the top of the hill where people could see it before they got there. Also, the children after school ran past it to get it to register their speed which would invalidate the results. He said that even the police do not observe the speed limit. He submitted a petition from the residents on that street that the Council make East Glendale Avenue one way between Dodge Street to Highland Avenue going from west to east. It was signed by 12 of the 14 homes on East Glendale.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

#1 tabled—see above.

#2 tabled—see above.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UFB#1 To Certify Sufficiency of Petition for Voluntary Annexation and to Call for Public Hearing

City Attorney Michael stated that a Petition for voluntary annexation was filed by Henry Henkel Rhyne regarding approx. 98 acres off Sandy Ford Road. City Manager Kraus certified that he finds the petition meets the required criteria.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to set a public hearing for Feb. 7, 1999 regular meeting to consider the annexation request. This motion was seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

City Manager Kraus said the Council may want to also hear the rezoning request that was filed as well by Mr. Rhyne. City Attorney Michael said Council could set it now or wait until after the public hearing, because there would be time between the public hearing and the effective date of the annexation, if approved, to take care of the zoning.

UFB#2 To Consider Replacement of Crestline Drive Water Line

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols stated that the City has had a number of repairs on that line, but has not been able to remedy the problem. Staff recommends replacing a segment of the line and he presented the cost estimates.

Motion: Councilman Helms **MOVED** to replace the segment of line on Crestline Drive at a cost not to exceed \$10,815, seconded by Councilman Hubbard.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to remove Item #4 to New Business, which was seconded by Councilman Helms.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to accept and approve items 1-3 & 5 and 6, on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: unanimously CARRIED. They are:

1. Resolution to Authorize Centralina Council of Governments to Receive State Funds
2. Final Plat Approval of Autumn Woods Phase I.
3. Call for Public Hearing on Sign Ordinance Amendment
5. Renaming New Road to YMCA Drive.
6. Signalizing Rail Crossings on West Central Avenue

NEW BUSINESS

Added (formerly #4 on Consent Agenda: Sponsoring Project Safe Place Locations at the Mount Holly Fire Department and City Hall

Andy Godfrey, the Fire Chief, in conjunction with the With Friends program that helps children and teenagers, has requested that the City allow its buildings to be a designated as "Safe Place" locations. He would like to see the Fire Department, Police Department, and City Hall designated. They will put a sign on the front of the buildings with the Safe Place emblem. When the department does fire prevention programs, and public service information, they will also inform about the program. Our men will be trained about how to transfer them to With Friends when they come in. Councilman Black asked if Catawba Hts. VFD should be used also, but he said it should be locations where there are people for long periods of time.

Motion: Councilman Helms **MOVED** to approve the City sponsoring Safe Place locations at four locations, which was seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NB #1 To Consider Contract with W. K. Dickson for GIS Implementation

John McLaughlin, and Chris Nugent, appeared for W. K. Dickson, Engineers, to explain briefly what GIS, Geographical Information Systems, involves. There are maps you can see graphically on screen which can interface with data screens, such as zoning, water and sewer lines, and others. He understands the City has the software, and his firm would install it and start it up, and instruct the departments on the further use of it. The IT component takes what you have for a web site, and will improve it for file transfer, and information transfer. Security aspects would be installed. City staff will be trained. Councilwoman Hubbard asked if this means all the water and sewer lines would be on the computer. John McLaughlin said that would not be in this initial phase, but ultimately could be done. Councilman Hough asked if we are sure that access would be only by password on certain items. Mr. Nugent said you will have control on the users and passwords. Councilman Hough asked about the cost; it is billed hourly, but not to exceed \$11,500. City Manager Kraus said this is within the budget. Councilman Black asked staff if we are we going to continue to search for an employee; Mr. Kraus said the labor market is very tight, so we will proceed with this to get started. Eddie Nichols said we budgeted for an entry level position, and no one will take the job at that salary that we feel has the expertise to allow them to work on this. Councilwoman Hubbard asked if this precludes our need for other web page consultants. Mr. Kraus said we will not be using the current web page consultants because they are not producing the products we need. Mr. Kraus said we hope to be able to put on the web page technical information.

Councilwoman Harris asked about the current provider. Mr. Kraus said we have paid half the contract, but he has refused to pay the other half because of their failure to do the work requested, and has let them go. They are protesting the non-payment of the other half of the contract.

NB#2 To Consider Contract with W. K. Dickson for Storm Water Phase II

John McLaughlin said the first step is to inventory the structures you have. The company will bill per structure. We will use GPS (Global Positioning System), at the mapping grade. City Attorney Michael said one of the contracts needs to be corrected in the paragraph about their limits of liability, and the liability needs to be \$1 million instead of the amount of the contract.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to approve the contract for the GIS and web page development; Councilman Black seconded.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to approve the contract for Storm Water Phase II to inventory and digitalize at mapping grade, with amendment to par. 15 for liability at \$1 million; Councilman Black seconded.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

The Council took a five minute recess.

NB#3 To Consider Resolution Concerning Catawba RiverKeeper

Motion: Councilman Hough read and **MOVED** to adopt Res. #11-8-99(a), (copy attached). Councilwoman Harris said she wants a copy to go to Ms. Lisenby also. Councilwoman Harris seconded. Councilman Black asked if it would be appropriate for all of the Council to sign this resolution as well as the Mayor? City Attorney Michael said that is permissible.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

City Manager David Kraus stated he has prepared a letter to send to the Board of Directors of CRF with the resolution. (copy attached) Councilwoman Hubbard asked who will sign the letter; it was agreed the whole Council will sign it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment. There were none.

ROUND TABLE

Councilwoman Hubbard asked if anyone would be going to the government leadership meeting at 10 AM the next day. City Manager Kraus was going.

Councilwoman Hubbard asked if the City would be getting new stationery showing the new Council; they will.

Councilwoman Harris had a few comments about the Council work sessions. If a council member cannot attend, they are lost tonight. If we have minutes of the work sessions, they need to come to Council before the meeting. If we cannot do that, we should not have work sessions without everyone being here. Councilman Hough said I would like to see us get the minutes from the work session also. Maybe we should not bind the packet at the work session. Mr. Michael offered to make a couple suggestions. He said the minutes for a work session can be skeletal. Mr. Kraus said this last work session was a problem, because it was on Thursday and that is the deadline for the regular meeting's agenda to go out. He said Council members who miss a work session could meet with a staff person or he could have staff meetings the morning after like he does for the regular meeting. Councilwoman Hubbard asked if the work session could be taped; he said it can. Councilwoman Harris said that discussions should take place at the regular meeting also. Councilwoman Hubbard agreed and said the citizens are used to hearing what is going on at the regular meeting; if discussion is taken care of at the workshop, and we just come in the regular meeting and vote, then they don't know what has happened. Councilman Black said last week was an unusual thing, and we have to make sure that we do not schedule it like that. Mayor McLean said this is something new and we will have to make adjustments to make it work properly.

Mayor McLean said Councilwoman Harris did very well at the Mount Holly pageant representing the Council with him.

Councilman Helms said he believes the Council needs the work sessions, and he does not feel we have to discuss everything we are doing in front of the audience. He agrees someone who misses the work session should be informed about what happened at it ahead of the regular meeting.

Councilman Hough said the city manger and city attorney did a good job on the response to the RiverKeeper.

Councilman Black asked about Councilman Hope. Mayor McLean said he is on heavy medication after his recent second surgery on his leg. The surgeon found a lot of scar tissue, and said he wished he had been the original surgeon. But he is home now and recuperating.

Councilman Black asked about the parking space to be removed on West Central. Mr. Kraus said that DOT is taking its time, so he will have the city employees paint over it.

Councilman Black said we get so many requests where someone in the neighborhood comes in and wants something and we go along with it, and then someone else in that neighborhood comes and does not like what was done, and we get stuck in the middle. What can we do to stop this? Can we have public hearings? Mr. Michael said Council should ask the staff for an opinion before a decision is made. Public Works Director Eddie Nichols said Council might require a certain percentage of residents on the signature on a petition. Mr. Michael also said Council can send a notice of the agenda

item to all the people on the street or in the subdivision affected and have it mailed to the addresses in the water department list.

Councilman Black said that at the work session the city attorney told Council that the City cannot enforce closing streets, like Deerfield Subdivision asked to do, because there is only one outlet.

Mayor McLean stated that the post office rep said he would let the mayor know something in about 30 days.

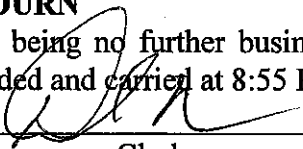
Mayor McLean set the next work session for Dec. 7th at 7:00 PM.

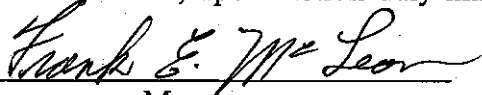
Mayor McLean said the Mount Holly parade is Dec. 1st.

City Manager Kraus said the Council retreat comes up in January, and he asked for Council to set the dates and place at the December meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried at 8:55 PM.


Clerk


Mayor

cpm