

**Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
October 07, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR PRO TEM

The work session of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Jim Hope. The following were present:

**Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Hope
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris
Councilman Michael Helms
Councilman Frank McLean
Councilman Bryan Hough
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
City Attorney Kemp Michael**

**City Manager David Kraus
Assistant to the City Manager Jamie Guffey
Assistant to the City Manager Danny Jackson
Police Chief Bence Hoyle
Fire Chief John Calder
Public Utilities Director Don Price
Street and Solid Waste Director Mike Santmire
Communication Director Megan Hanks**

The Invocation was led by Councilman McLean.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Hough.

Item #1 on the Agenda -- *Speeding on Tomberlin Drive*

Ms. Rudisill and Ms. Dill spoke about a speeding problem on Tomberlin Drive. Ms. Rudisill and Ms. Dill pointed out that this is a residential neighborhood and they feel the speed limit should be 20-25 miles per hour.

Councilman Hough asks that this subject be scheduled for public hearing at next month's meeting of the City Council, on November 10, 2003.

Councilman Helms asked that Ms. Rudisill and Ms. Dill spread the word in their neighborhood about the public hearing next month so that all who may wish to speak to this issue could do so.

Item #2 on the Agenda -- *Block Party on Antelope Drive*

Mr. Steve Davis requested permission to close a portion of Antelope Drive for a neighborhood block party on the afternoon of Sunday, October 12, 2003.

Councilwoman Harris asked if the planned block party had caused any conflict within the neighborhood. Mr. Davis responded that everyone who lives on the street plans to attend the party, except for one resident who will be out of town.

Councilman Hough expressed concern about the City's emergency response vehicles having access to these homes during the block party. Chief Hoyle and Chief Calder responded that they were presented with a map showing the planned location of the party, and both confirmed that this will not be a problem.

Councilman Helms **MOVED** to close the section of Antelope Drive on Sunday, October 12, 2003. The motion was seconded by Councilman McLean and passed with no objections.

Item #3 on the Agenda – Riverfront Stormwater Issues

Mr. James Brienza of 113 Steamboat Drive spoke about problems he and his fellow residents in the Riverfront Subdivision have experienced in recent months. Some of the problems he cited were: erosion of land, standing water, flooding of backyard, decrease in property values, health issues (pests and rodents on property), garbage displaced onto property, and exposed sewage pipes. Mr. Brienza asked the City to provide assistance in either fixing these problems or by holding the developer (Squires) accountable for the problems.

Mayor Pro Tem Black asked Mr. Kraus to comment on the City's response to this situation. Mr. Kraus said that the City has encountered much difficulty in dealing with Bill Rice, the developer of Riverfront. Mr. Kraus stated that he has a meeting scheduled with Bill Rice and Rick Davis for this Friday, October 10, during which they will discuss these concerns Mr. Brienza has shared.

Councilwoman Hubbard asked if the City had any way of knowing that there would be so many problems in this area from the planning stages of this development. Mr. Kraus stated that the State of North Carolina, through Gaston County, currently is responsible to foresee any stormwater/drainage issues. The engineer who certified the land was hired by the developer, and not by the City. LandDesign was hired to do the land plan, including the soil erosion control plan.

Mr. Michael stated that the City checks all aspects of a development which will be handed over to the City for maintenance; currently this does not include drainage/stormwater issues.

Mr. Price said he will also attend the meeting on Friday to offer his assistance to the matter.

Ms. Joan Morgan of 100 North Hawthorne spoke up from the audience about a similar problem she is experiencing at her residence (grease/oil in the drainpipe). Mr. Kraus assured her that staff would also look at this problem.

Item # 4 on the Agenda -- Letter from Jim Stancil

Council chose to move this item to the regular Council meeting on the night of Monday, October 13, 2003.

Item #4 on the Agenda -- Sidewalk Bids

Mr. Kraus discussed the situation with the sidewalk bids. The City has received three bids for the sidewalk projects: \$1.2 million from Propst Construction, \$860,000 Kip Construction, \$480,000 Skidmore Construction. However, Lee Skidmore's license only covered projects up to \$350,000. Therefore we did not have three legitimate bids.

The total expense of the sidewalk projects was estimated to be approximately \$500,000. Half of this money will be available when we float the bonds, while the other half are Powell Bill funds. Staff also spoke about the State withholding \$50,000 in Powell Bill funds.

Councilman Hough mentioned that he would like to see the flipcharts Mr. Santmire had presented last summer.

Item #5 on the Agenda -- Catawba River Plan

City Manager David Kraus showed the proposed master plan for the Catawba Outdoor Center. This information was provided for informational purposes only.

Item #6 on the Agenda -- Possible Annexation

Removed from the Agenda.

Item #7 on the Agenda -- Time Limit on Facility Rental

Assistant to the City Manager Danny Jackson presented information on the proposal to place a time limit on the rental of City owned facilities. Mr. Jackson stated that the proposed change will not affect City sponsored activities.

Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to set a ninety (90) consecutive day limit on the use of City owned facilities. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris and passed with no objections.

Item #8 on the Agenda -- Agenda Items

Council considered items for the regular meeting.

Item #9 on the Agenda -- Executive Session

Councilman Helms **MOVED** to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris and passed with no objections.



