

**Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
October 3, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The work session 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	City Manager David Kraus
Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Black	Administrative Services Officer Jamie Guffey
Councilman Michael Helms	Public Works Director Eddie Nichols
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Planning & Zoning Director Danny Jackson
Councilman Jim Hope	Fire Chief John Ekiatis
Councilman Bryan Hough	Parks & Recreation Director Zip Stowe
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard	Police Chief Ricky Davis
City Attorney Kemp Michael	

The Invocation was lead by Councilman Hope.

Item # 1 on the Agenda – Discussion of New Post Office.

Hunter Roop, project manager, addressed the Council concerning the building of the new post office. Mr. Roop read a letter dated September 12, 2000 that he had received from City Manager Kraus. In the letter City Manager Kraus expressed concerns about the location. The City considers the location to be poor with its only opening being on Central. The letter also asked that the location be reconsidered. Mr. Roop called City Manager Kraus after receiving the letter and was informed that the Council would have questions and was asked to come to this meeting to answer them.

Mr. Roop then stated that on September 14, 2000 he received a letter from Representative Sue Myrick outlining the same concerns that City Manager Kraus stated in his letter. Mr. Roop responded to this letter on September 28, 2000 with a letter explaining the procedures that took place. Mr. Roop also stated that as project manager, he is responsible for everything.

Councilman Hough asked that if process called for the only community involvement to be the Mayor. Mr. Roop responded that the Post Office suggest using the highest elected public official and if the new guidelines were used, there would have been less interaction than that.

Councilwoman Hubbard stated that this is a building that will serve the city for over 40 years and that there are a number of locations that would be better, including the Old Food Lion and with the growth toward the north, this seems like a very poor choice.

Councilman Hough then asked why the post office was proceeding with construction if they knew the council had problems. Mr. Roop stated that the construction contract had

already been awarded and that the private citizen who had won the award had already spent \$95,000 on site preparation. Then Councilman Hough stated that he was afraid that extra pressure would be put on the City to make Central Avenue bigger.

Councilwoman Harris asked if this decision could be changed and Councilman Hope said the site was still a marketable piece of property. Mr. Roop agreed that the site was still marketable but cautioned that if another site had to be chosen, the City runs the risk of the project not getting funded. He also said there was a public hearing held in November 1998 and that the hearing was publicized for 4 Sundays.

Mr. Roop said he would come back to the Monday night Council Meeting. Councilman Black asked if Mr. Roop could bring some information about the Public Hearing held on November 9, 1998.

Councilman Hough **MOVED** that Council deny burning on the construction site. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and passed with all in favor.

Item #3 on the agenda – New Fire Station Designs.

Presentations were made to Council by architects on proposals for design of the new downtown fire station. The architects represented (in order of presentation) were C.L. Helt, Scott Garner and Stewart-Cooper & Newell.

Item #2 on the agenda – Selection of Street Banners.

Administration Services Officer Guffey presented Council with catalogs for banners. Councilwoman Harris and Councilman Hough were chosen to select the style of banners.

Item #4 on the agenda – Freightliner Briefing by Police.

Police Chief Davis stated that there is a possible strike by the UAW at the Mount Holly Freightliner plant in December. The rally held by the union did not go well. The members marched up 273 to Freightliner without permission and caused some traffic problems. A video taking by police at the rally was then shown to council.

Officer Ray Clemmer talked about articles he has read about strikes. The first couple of days are the worst. He also stated that our main problems will be with members of unions related to the UAW, mainly the Teamsters.

City Manager Kraus stated that this strike will cause the City to have to pay a lot of unexpected overtime. Chief Davis said the County will help us and that our officers will be trained in pepper spray. Councilman Black asked if the City had riot gear and Chief Davis stated that we do have helmets.

Item # 5 – Draft Agenda Items.

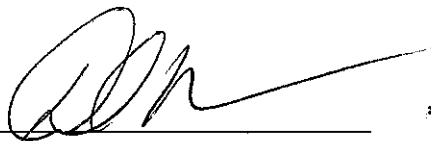
City Manager Kraus told the Council that the surplus vehicles in consent agenda # 1 are two fire trucks that Chief Ekiatis deems the City does not need.

Parking on the Right of Way. The Code says no parking on the sidewalks not the grass and this is a subject that Council may want to explore futher.

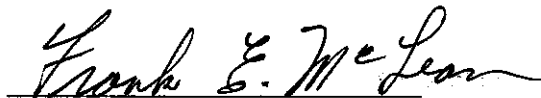
Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** that the City select Chet Helt as the architect for the new fire station. Councilman Hope seconded on condition that a satisfactory fee agreement could be reached. Motion passed with all in favor.

Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** that the City acquire the 5 acres in the Boat Landing area. Councilman Hough seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15.



City Clerk



Mayor