

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2009
Council Chambers
6:00 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Robert Whitt	Eric Davis, City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Frank McLean	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Perry Toomey	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare	Tina Pritchard, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Mike Santmire, Streets & Solid Waste Director
Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office	

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem David Moore led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

Set the Agenda

Mayor Whitt asked for any changes to the September 14, 2009 work session agenda. With no changes to the agenda, Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. With all Council members present, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Discussion of Occupancy Tax Levy

Mr. Guffey reported that in August, the State Senate ratified the bill for the City of Mount Holly to Levy and Occupancy Tax from our local hotels and motels. He explained that before the City can levy the tax, there are a few things that will have to be approved by Council. Mr. Guffey advised that Council will have to conduct a public hearing regarding the levy of occupancy tax. The public hearing cannot be held less than 10 days after the publication of the notice. Mr. Guffey explained the items that would have to be outlined within the resolution. The resolution will need to include the following information: the effective date of the levy, the means of collection, the administration to include the necessary filing forms and the due date of the tax, the penalties, the option that the City's Governing Board has the right to repeal or reduce the adopted resolution at any time, the use of the tax which is limited to promote travel and tourism within the City and the development of a Tourism Development Authority (TDA). The resolution shall detail the make up of the TDA as far as members, terms and compensation for serving. Mr. Guffey continued by explaining Council will need to call for a public hearing on a resolution to levy occupancy tax. Mayor Whitt commented that if Council wishes to stick with their January 1, 2010 start date they will need to have the public hearing in October. Councilman McLean made motion to call for a public hearing regarding the levy of occupancy tax at the October meeting. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Update on Tuck Park Vandalism

Ms. Pritchard reported that there has not been any vandalism since the last Council meeting. Chief Belk added that the Police Department has implemented the patrol in the park as directed by Council at the last meeting. He advised two arrests were made for possession of marijuana. Neither of the arrests made were Mount Holly residents. Ms. Pritchard gave Council the cost estimates for the installation of camera's to monitor the area. Mayor Whitt suggested a less costly option of putting up a gate and signage to discourage people from entering the park at night. Council directed Staff to keep looking for alternatives and keep them posted.

3. Update on Wastewater Treatment

Mr. Davis updated Council on a few items regarding the wastewater treatment options. One of which was the speculative effluent limits letter from NCDENR. He advised that this could be very costly to the City. Mr. Davis further reported that he received a letter from CMUD regarding a regional wastewater treatment plant. He advised that CMUD has offered to treat 4 mgd at no charge to the City. The other part is that CMUD will eventually want the City to give up our discharge permit. Mr. Davis suggested that Council have a special meeting to discuss and concentrate only on wastewater treatment options. Councilman Bishop added that he will call a meeting of the Utility Committee to discuss these new components.

4. Discussion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Grant

Mr. DuPont reported that NCDOT just recently released funds for bicycle/pedestrian path grants. He advised that December 4, 2009 is the deadline for application. Mr. Dupont explained that if Council wishes to move forward with the grant application, the City would have to have purposed plan to submit with the application. Mayor Whitt asked how much the grant covered as far as the cost is concerned. Mr. Dupont replied that the grant covers up to 70%. It was the consensus of Council not to pursue this grant opportunity but advised Mr. Dupont to keep them aware of future grant options.

5. Update on Greenway Easements

Mayor Whitt reported that the greenway easement have become one of his pet peeves and he would like to see at least two (2) easements signed before he leaves office in December. Mr. Michael advised that he is working with Clarant and A & E regarding the survey of the easement. Mayor Whitt commented that he would like this issue to remain as an agenda item while he is still in office. Mr. Davis provided a map of the Greenway area and advised that a key piece is going to be acquiring an easement form the Duke Energy property.

6. Update on the Recycling Program

Mike Santmire

Mr. Santmire reported that the City is currently working on a request for proposals for various options of recycling pickup. Council will be presented with the most effective and fiscally responsible option. Mr. Santmire further advised that the call for grants for the recycling program should be out next week. It is expected that the City will receive a grant for \$100,000 to use for the purchase of the recycling containers. Mr. Santmire advised that the plastic bottle ban in the landfills becomes effective October 1, 2009. This is also the time that the City will start charging for bulk item pickups. Mr. Santmire further advised that the City is currently starting the education process with our citizens. Councilwoman Breyare suggested that education process could go through our schools as well.

7. Committee Reports

Mayor Whitt advised that the Council will need to add a short closed session on the agenda.

Councilman Toomey reported that a resident of Tumberlane Drive informed him that there is a resident of whom lives on the Tumberlane Drive that is bringing in old appliances from other areas, taking them apart and selling the parts for profit and then placing all the scraps out for the City's Street Department to pick up. Mr. Davis commented that Staff will look into this problem.

Councilman Toomey asked about the property that the City had at one time leased from Second Baptist. Mr. Michael advised that the contract has been terminated.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked about the speed bumps at Tuck Park. Mr. Davis commented that staff is currently working on the bids.

Mr. Davis reported that he and Mr. Jackson met with CSX to discuss the easements for the Linear Park. He advised that CSX was very responsive to the cities requests but in return has requested that the City close two (2) rail crossings.

Closed Session (*pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3)*)

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

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

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

8. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman McLean made the motion to adjourn the September 28, 2009 Work Session Meeting. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.