

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, September 11, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	
Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris	Brian DuPont, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Ivory Craig	Brian Reagan, Police Chief
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	Tony Walker, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker	Jonathan Wilson, Director of Utilities
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor
Tara Douglas, Deputy City Clerk	Becky Condor, Deputy Finance Director

INVOCATION

Pastor Jared Bromka led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 59 of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

With no changes to the agenda, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of an updated Interlocal Agreement for Enforcement Services of Gaston County Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance
2. Call for a public hearing to amend Sections 6.4 & 7.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow tattoo studios as a permitted use with conditions in the B-1 District
3. Memorandum of Understanding for East Lincoln Fire Department for Mutual Aid
4. Approval of Minutes from the August 28, 2023 Council Meeting
5. Approval of Minutes from the August 28, 2023 Closed Session

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Mayor Hough entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of a Resolution recognizing Amy Miller upon her retirement *Mayor Bryan Hough*
Mayor Hough read and presented a resolution recognizing Amy Miller upon her retirement of 15 years with the City of Mount Holly.

2. Presentation Honoring Art Contest Participants *Mayor Bryan Hough*
Mayor Hough presented certificates to the winners and participants of the signal box wrapping art contest. The 15 winners whose art is displayed on signal boxes around Mount Holly came from Mountain Island Charter School, Mount Holly Middle School, Pinewood Elementary, East Gaston High School, Ida Rankin Elementary School, Catawba Heights Elementary School, and Home School.

3. Recognition of September 11th *Chief Ryan Baker*
Chief Ryan Baker remembered and recognized the tragedy that took place on September 11, 2001. Chief Baker called for a moment of silence to remember those that lost their lives. Chief Baker called attention to the two pieces of the South Tower of the World Trade Center that were on display at the front of the Council Chamber.

Mayor Hough called a five-minute break.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public hearing for a proposed text amendment to amend Appendixes: 1, 2, & 3 of the Subdivision Ordinance *Paul Lowe*
Mr. Lowe presented information continued from the August meeting regarding the proposed text amendment. Mr. Lowe stated that this time allowed staff based on Council's recommendations the opportunity to see if there were any impacts to the subdivision ordinances. Mr. Lowe stated that this text amendment would provide map standards for plats and street lights would be required in developments over 200 feet. Mr. Lowe stated that the Planning Commission and Staff recommend approval of the text amendment as presented. Marie Anders stated that the Public Hearing had been tabled from last month and had not been closed. Mayor Hough entertained a motion to continue the public hearing. Councilman Meadows made a motion to continue the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Harris seconded the motion to continue the public hearing. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

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Mayor Hough stated that there is no one signed up to speak at this public hearing. Mayor Hough entertained a motion to come out of public hearing and back into the regular meeting. Councilman Meadows made a motion to come out of the public hearing and back into the regular meeting. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

Mayor Hough asked Council if they would like to take action. Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the proposed text amendment to amend Appendixes: 1, 2, & 3 of the Subdivision Ordinance. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

PUBLIC COMMENT- Three (3) Minute Limit

1. Stephanie McLaughlin with Arts on the Greenway provided the Council an update. Ms. McLaughlin mentioned an invitation from the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation highlighting a celebration of 20 years of community achievements and partnership with the City of Mount Holly. Ms. McLaughlin mentioned the Cruising on the Catawba Gala on October 14, 2023. Ms. McLaughlin also mention the upcoming Arts Mount Holly Plein Air event.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of parking strategy to address loading/unloading zones and no overnight on-street parking in downtown
Greg Beal

Mr. Beal discussed the concerns brought by a Mount Holly business owner regarding the lack of any loading or unloading parking zones. The planning staff have looked into the concerns and surveyed some towns in the Charlotte region and very few have parking standards in their downtown. Mr. Beal stated that staff wondered how much police dedication those towns have assigned to those 2-hour parking, but that it would discourage overnight parking. Mr. Beal stated that the city has a traffic control policy that has a policy. Mr. Beal stated that staff is recommending 2 -1-hour zones at the southernmost corner of West Central Avenue and South Main Street. Mr. Beal is recommending to keep it 1 hour parking max. Mr. Beal stated that he has been working with the Better City consultants to look at an overall parking strategy. Mr. Beal stated the city has the strategic vision plan that states where parking should go. Mr. Beal stated that parking is very expensive and has been an ongoing challenge. Mr. Beal advises instructing the city attorney to draft an ordinance to place in the city code and then follow the traffic control policies. Mayor Hough asked Council if they would like to move forward with an ordinance. Marie Anders advised that they do not need to vote since she does not have an ordinance drafted at this time and that staff is just seeking direction at this time. Mayor Hough asked if there were

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any Council member that do not want to move forward. Councilman Meadows stated that he is his concerned about enforcement. Councilman Meadows stated that he is also concerned around the staffing needed designated to that. Councilman Meadows stated that he would like to know how long it would take to get a fully developed parking study and strategy together. Mayor Hough stated that Council could direct the city attorney to begin drafting an ordinance for review at a later time. Councilman Craig stated that he agrees that Council should allow the city attorney to draft an ordinance for review at a later Council meeting. Mayor Hough stated that the Council poll showed five Council members would like to move forward while Councilman Meadows is hesitant to move forward at this time. Mayor Hough stated that we will move forward with having the city attorney begin drafting an ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of contract to purchase Woodlawn Avenue, Tax Parcel ID 122990

Marie Anders

Marie Anders discussed the opportunity to purchase Tax Parcel ID #122990 on Woodlawn Avenue. Ms. Anders stated that there is a letter from the attorney of the Hicks estate regarding a land locked parcel adjacent to the City of Mount Holly's park known as Woodlawn Park. Ms. Anders stated that the attorney is offering this as a private sale to the City of Mount Holly for the amount of \$1,110.00 which is the tax value. Ms. Anders stated that if the Council wanted to move forward that there would be a 10-day upset bid period. Ms. Anders stated that she has been asked to present this offer to the Council seeking direction. Ms. Anders stated that if the Council wanted to put in a bid for this property, then the next step would be that she would prepare a contract and suggests a 14-day due diligence period with a purchase price of \$1,110 cash. Mayor Hough asked the Council for direction. Councilman Moore stated that he is in favor of moving forward with an offer. Mayor Hough asked Council if anyone disagreed? Mayor Hough stated that Council's direction is to move forward with the offer.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (3 and 5)
Mayor Hough entertained a motion to go out of the regular meeting and enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (3 and 5). Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and enter into closed session at 7:40 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

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Mayor Hough entertained a motion to come out of closed session and back into the regular meeting. Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to come out of closed session and back into the regular meeting at 8:19 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to adjourn the September 11, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor.

(Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm