City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2009
Council Chambers
6:00 pm

Call to Order
Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 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	

Call to Order

Mayor Whitt called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Invocation

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

Set the Agenda

Mr. Michael advised that he would like to add a discussion on the Skateboard Ordinance as it relates to the skate park to the agenda as well as the approval of the Tuck Park Expansion Contract. Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. With all Council members present, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA

1. Discussion of Cost of Wastewater Treatment Options

Mayor Whitt introduced David Parker with Carollo Engineers. Mr. Parker explained that his firm has been hired by the City to complete a Wastewater Treatment Plant Cost Evaluation. He advised that the City has options to work with. The first option being to decommission the Mount Holly wastewater treatment plant and pump to Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities (CMU). This would consist of the demolition of all the above ground facilities (buildings, tanks, etc.) as well as the demolition of all underground basins/facilities to 3 ft depth and abandon yard piping and other buried items. The sludge storage tanks may be used as equalization. The City would then have to erect a pump station and build a pipeline of approximately 3,000 feet to CMU. The second option is to expand the current wastewater treatment plant. This would consist of many upgrades to the existing plant. These upgrades consist of the aeration and chlorine contact basin

upgrades, new effluent pipe, sludge storage tanks and administration and laboratory building. The City would also have to consider the effect of the 100 year floodplain regulations.
Mr. Parker reported that the cost estimate for the first option is approximately $10 million. This includes the decommissioning of the current station as well as pumping to CMU. The second option to expand the current wastewater plant and get it up to standards is approximately $31.5 million. Mr. Parker advised that these options do not include the engineering and administration costs. He further advised that making the appropriate upgrades to the existing plant would cost almost as much as building a new wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Davis added that Council has been working very hard on the wastewater treatment options for quit some time. He feels this information will help Council come closer to a final decision.

At this time, Mayor Whitt called for a brief recess.
The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

2. Discussion of the Mountain Island MOU

Mr. Michael advised that this item was first discussed by Council several months ago. At that time, Council's directive was to negotiate the timeframe of the renewal of the MOU. Council was concerned that a sizeable amount of money could be spent on greenways and then the City could loose the right to them if the state chooses not to renew the MOU. Mr. Michael explained that the timeframe of the renewal has been negotiated to 20 year terms instead of the 3 year terms previously provided in the contract. Councilwoman Breyare asked that this item be postponed until the September meeting to give Council time to refresh their memories on this item. It was the consensus of Council to put this item on the September meeting agenda.

3. Discussion of the Tree Trimming Ordinance

Mr. Beal explained that staff has been researching model ordinances regarding tree trimming in the public right-of-way. He advised that Council directed staff to look into this ordinance after the gateway regulations and sign ordinance were written. Councilman Toomey asked how the city will control the tree trimming that is not in the public right of way. Mr. Beal advised that the main concern should be in the public right of ways. There was further discussion regarding the penalties section of the ordinance. Mayor Whitt suggested that the penalties for illegal tree trimming start at no less than $1,000. At this time, Councilman McLean made a motion to call for a public hearing at the October 12th Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Report on the Parks and Recreation Budget

Mr. Guffey reported that Council was given the current financial statement for all departments of the City. He commented that the expenditures in the Administration Department is at 17% for the year. He explained that several of the one time payments, such as the liability insurance, comes out of the admin department budget and has already been paid for the year. Mayor Whitt advised that Council is concerned when money is taken from one department and given to another department. Mr. Guffey further explained that when working within a budget, the main concern is to stay within the bottom line without going over. As long as a significant amount is not moved from department to department then it should not be a great concern. Mayor Whitt then asked the policy regarding purchase orders. Mr. Guffey explained that any purchase over $200 requires a purchase order number before the item can be bought. He explained that there was a problem with a Department going to the same store several times a day and purchasing under $200 each time. He advised that this problem has been addressed with the Department Head and the new Finance Officer has plans to crack down on the rules of purchase orders. There were then questions in regard to the PARTIF grant the funds for the Tuck Park Phase II Expansion. Mr. Guffey explained that the funds for Phase II have been encumbered in regard to the amount of the contract with Liles Construction. After some further discussion in regard to the park, Councilman McLean advised that he would like Mr. Guffey to come before Council every quarter to give a financial update. Mr. Guffey commented that the Finance Department plans to provide Council with monthly financial statements.

5. Report on the Implementation of the Employee Pay Plan

Mr. Davis advised that as part of the budget process, Council agreed to implement the Employee Pay Plan. At this time, Ms. Allen came forward and explained that the pay plan would be implemented in a three year phase in cycle. She further advised that there is one position that management Staff feels should be bumped up at once because of the importance of the position and the policy provides for that flexibility. Councilman Bishop asked if incase of a demotion would the policy provide for a change in salary. Ms. Allen reported that the demotion process will be handled within the personnel policy. She advised that the personnel policy is currently being reviewed by staff and the City Attorney.

6. Discussion of Television Pickup by the Streets Dept

Mr. Santmire advised that starting January 2011, the landfill will no longer take television and computer monitors in the landfill. He further advised that the landfill has already started charging the city for these items. Mr. Santmire emphasized that he needs direction from Council in regard to picking up these items from citizens. Councilman Bishop made a motion to begin charging for the pickup of these items immediately. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. Councilwoman Breyare commented that citizens should be notified about this change. In a vote, all Council Members voted in favor.

6A. Discussion of the Skateboard Ordinance

Ms. Lopez advised that Council needs to amend the skateboard ordinance to read as follows: *All persons riding a skateboard or similar devise in a skateboard park owned by the City of Mount Holly shall at all times wear a helmet which shall meet the ASTM F1492 skateboard helmet standards, elbow pads and kneepads. Any person failing to wear this safety equipment shall be subject to a citation resulting in the penalties set forth in Section 21.28 of this Chapter and may be barred from further use of the facility.*

Ms. Lopez advised that the skate park is temporarily closed until Council amends the ordinance and the signage at the park can be changed. Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to amend the ordinance as stated above. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

6B. Approval of Tuck Park Phase II

Mr. Davis advised that due to staff error, the contract between Liles Construction and the City for Phase II of Tuck Park was not approved by Council. He advised that once realized, construction was immediately haltd on the project. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the contract with Liles Construction for $511,000. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Breyare asked of the estimated completion date of the Phase II project. Ms. Pritchard advised that depending on if contractors can start working again promptly, the project should be complete by the second week of October.

7. Committee Reports

Councilman McLean reported that he attended the COG Executive Board Meeting.

Councilman Toomey reported that he attended a Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. He advised that at this meeting he learned that Highway 273 is still on the priority list.

Mayor Whitt reported that he and Mr. Davis plan to attend the Mayor and Managers meeting on Wednesday.

8. Closed Session *(pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(6))*

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

Councilman Toomey 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.

9. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman McLean made the motion to adjourn the August 24, 2009 work session meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.