

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2021
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Hough called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and advised that Councilman Moore is attending the meeting virtual. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	Miles Braswell, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Shoemaker	Don Roper, Police Chief
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Brian Reagan, Deputy Police Chief
Councilman Charles McCorkle	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor
Councilman David Moore	Tony Walker, Street and Solid Waste Director
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	David Johnson, City Engineer/ Director of Utilities
	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Marie Anders, City Attorney	Michelle Wood, Finance Director

Invocation

Councilman Moore led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Hough advised that a discussion of Green Meadows Annexation needs to be added to the agenda as item #6. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 9, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman McCorkle seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

AGENDA

1. Presentation of Montcross Emerge

Marc Jordan, President of the Montcross Chamber came before Council to introduce the Emerge Program, *Emerge from COVID*. He advised that businesses members and nonmembers are struggling and a team with expertise has been formed through the chamber to assist the small business owners. He advised that the program will provide growth incentives that is focused on expanding the towns businesses. He advised that several of the surrounding towns have agreed to pledge ARPA funds in support of this program. Councilman Meadows asked what other commitments the City has from the ARPA grant funding. Council directed staff to provide more information in regard to the ARPA grant and bring the topic up at a later meeting for further discussion.

2. Presentation on Mount Holly Paddling Park

Tom Bailey came before the Council with a proposal to move the Belmont Rowing Club to Mount Holly. Currently they are operating as Belmont Rowing Club out of the marina beside the Muddy River Distillery. They offer row classes, indoor rowing, kid's classes and a ROAR, a program for cancer survivors and adaptive for mentally and physical handicapped. He advised that this is the only rowing facility between Hickory and Columbia. Mr. Bailey advised that he would like to move the rowing club to Mount Holly as an extension of Tuck Park. He advised they would need approximately 4-5 acres. Mayor Hough suggested making this an item to discuss at the Council Retreat that will be coming up early next year.

3. Lien Foreclosure Process

Mr. DuPont advises that staff and the City Attorney have developed a process to collect on outstanding debt due to nuisance liens placed upon properties. He advised that the foreclosure process is not designed to take property that is in taxable status but to acknowledge property owned by delinquent owners and get the property in the hands of someone willing to maintain it. Councilman Meadows made a motion to add a surplus property clause to the process and move forward. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

4. Presentation of GIS Long Range Plan

Mr. Godwin presented his ideas and the information that he has been working on since his employment with the City. He explained the data layers and presented the Park Bond 2021 story map. He advised that the GIS Hub site is a great way to promote the City. Mayor Hough requested that adding a downtown parking map to the information.

5. Art Program Priority Update

Mr. Beal presented ideas brought forth by the Mount Holly Public Art Advisory Commission (PAAC) The priority projects include bike racks with an artist touch, utility box wraps and developing a logo for greenway. Councilman Meadows suggested that the development of a logo for the greenway should be a Parks and Recreation budgeted item. Mayor Hough advised that the City needs to move forward with arts in the city and needs to add murals to downtown. Mr. Beal advised that PAAC is continuing to explore other option and looking into making contact with CSX in regard to the bridge.

6. Discussion of Green Meadows Annexation

Mayor Hough advised that in looking at Mr. DuPont's write up and cost benefit analysis, the question arises as to why are we moving forward with this annexation request. Mayor Hough asked Ms. Anders the legalities of not moving forward with the public hearing or the request. Ms. Anders advised that if Council decides they do not have to move forward with the public hearing but would need to make a motion to rescind the call for public hearing. Councilwoman Harris made a motion to rescind the call for public hearing on the annexation request of Green Meadows. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker made a motion to rescind the motion to call for a public hearing for the rezoning request of Green Meadows. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (3, 5 and 6)

Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to enter into closed session at 7:57 pm. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

Councilwoman Harris made a motion to come out of closed session and back into regular session at 8:53 pm. Councilman Moore 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 Harris made a motion to adjourn the August 23, 2021 Council Work Session Meeting. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:54mpm