CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 1998

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR
The regular 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
Mayor Pro-Tem Phyllis Harris
Councilman Michael Helms
Councilman Andy Stewart
Councilman Jim Hope
Councilman Bryan Hough
Councilman Bobby Black

Adm. Services Dir. Sherry Borgsdorf
Public Works Director Eddie Nichols
Planning & Zoning Dir. Danny Jackson
City Attorney Kemp Michael
Police Officer

INVOCATION
The invocation was led by Rev. Dennis Knight.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor McLean led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES
Councilman Helms **MOVED** to approve the minutes of July 13, 1998, as written, seconded by Councilwoman Harris, with all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS
#1 To Consider a Request to Rezone a Lot Located at 916 West Charlotte Avenue from R-8 SF to B-3.

Mayor McLean declared the regular meeting in recess and called a public hearing for consideration of request for rezoning a lot located at 916 West Charlotte Avenue from R-8SF to B-3. He stated that the Planning Commission had voted to table this for one month. There were no comments from audience for or against, and no comments from Council.
Motion: Councilwoman Harris MOVED to continue the public hearing until next month's regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Stewart.
Vote: six ayes, zero nays. CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
UFB#1 Public Works Director Eddie Nichols to Discuss Labor Shortages in the Street and Sanitation Department.
Eddie Nichols appeared as a follow up with more information regarding the labor shortage in the street and sanitation department. He does not recommend the departments be split since they are interdependent. Staff recommendation is a 10% pay

definition. He said he needs a consensus from Council as to whether they want it restricted to Mount Holly or to expand the area. Councilman Hough wants it restricted to Mount Holly. Councilman Helms said he agreed, but he wants to provide that if none in Mt. Holly are available, the Police have the option to call one outside. Councilman Hope said he is in favor of free enterprise and would not want to have to have an office in every town he does business in. Council agreed maintaining an office should be more defined. No action.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Hough **MOVED** to accept and approve all two items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Stewart; and unanimously carried. They are:

1. Approve Tax Releases.
   Tax releases for July 1998 in the sum of $646.58 as listed and presented by the Tax Collector.

2. Approve Change Order #1 for the Mount Holly/Stanley Interconnect.
   Increase contract with Dellinger, Inc. to replace the manual hoist with an electric hoist for an additional sum of $11,253.23, at the new lift station along Highland Street, which has already been approved by Stanley Town Council, and which will not increase Mount Holly's financial commitment.

NEW BUSINESS

NB #1 BECKY JENNINGS TO DISCUSS CIVICS PROJECT.

Ms. Becky Jennings, 143 Woodhill Drive, attended Legislature's School of Western Carolina University. As a community project, she had recommendations for improvements of her neighborhood. She wanted assistance in lowering speeders on West Central Avenue. She requested speed limit, school zone, and warning signs in her neighborhood. Mayor McLean said he would have staff investigate this request. The Council thanked her for coming.

NB #2 TO CONSIDER PLAT APPROVAL FOR THE EASTERN BRANCH OF THE GASTON COUNTY YMCA.

Danny Jackson said the Planning Commission has recommended approval of the final plat, with 12 contingencies outlined in a memo from him to Council dated August 10, 1998. He asked the City Attorney to explain further. Mr. Michael showed the map for Crescent Resources Subdivision consisting of three tracts. Because there are multiple tracts, it falls under the subdivision ordinance. Council is familiar with its impact on residential subdivisions, which often have a contingency of a letter of credit for completion of the infrastructure, so they can record the plat and begin to sell lots, and the purchasers of those lots are thereby protected. Although this is not a residential subdivision, the same ordinance applies. This is set apart by the fact that purchasers of these lots are major companies with engineers and attorneys looking out for them. He recommended Council add #13 to the contingency list to be: Any other matters which staff feels are necessary to comply with the ordinance. There is still one other issue to go alone. Mr. Ponder asked if Mr. David Pond with W. K. Dickson Engineers felt they would be able to operate in this perimeter and protect our interest. Mr. Pond said he would and felt he would provide a second opinion, and an objective analysis. Councilman Stewart asked why Stanley is omitted; he said it is because they are under contract with Mount Holly and so were considered a part of it. Mr. Ponder said he would involve them, but they are a customer, similar to A&E.

Mr. Ponder said that 3 years ago, we were looking at $10 million to upgrade our plant, which would at least double the utility rates. We are under no time pressure right now, but a decision on this is a five year project. The City must do improvement eventually. He wants Council input as to whether to pursue this option before he proceeds further. Councilman Stewart asked for our engineer's estimate. Mr. Ponder said between $10,000 and $15,000 is their estimate.

The Council took a five minute recess.

NB#5 TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND LAKE TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP

Councilman Hough **MOVED** to appoint Councilman Helms to the position of our delegate to the Mountain Island Lake Technical Study Group; seconded by Councilwoman Harris, and carried with all in favor.

NB#6 TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF STANLEY REGARDING PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Ponder informed Council that the State of North Carolina has required Mt. Holly to "permit" significant industrial users within Stanley.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Jimmy Todd, 104 Silverleaf Court. He is a homeowner in Runnymeade Subdivision. A stop sign has been recently erected at the bottom of the hill. The only thing there is a cul-de-sac. He feels it is a safety hazard. From what he can tell, Councilman Hough took it upon himself to do this, and he understands Mr. Hough wanted to slow people down. He would rather speed bumps were used. The City should have policemen give tickets for speeding instead of that. He believes the signs are ridiculous. He is a law enforcement officer. Councilman Hough said he had not gotten a call about this. He stated he had brought up the speeding problem, and first addressed enforcement of speed limit. He said speed bumps are too expensive. He had citizens from the community watch concerned about the children playing. He had gone through all the options and this was the last resort. He had presented to Council, but the whole Council decided to do that. Mr. Todd said this is not a solution, and it is going to cause an accident.

Councilman Helms said the back lots in Runnymeade have not been properly handled regarding erosion control. Councilman Helms said erosion has occurred on Sweetbriar Court also.

Councilman Helms said at Riverfront, they do not have enough there to be in compliance with erosion control where they are grading for the apartments.

Councilwoman Harris said she had a request for Children at Play sign on Church Street. Approved by Council consensus.

Councilwoman Harris said that since we are getting new Xmas lights, she and Councilman Bobby Black want to have a small celebration when they are lit for the first time. Council concurred.

Councilwoman Harris said the employee picnic will be September 12, at River Street Park, and food will be served at 4:00 P.M.

Councilman Stewart asked if any progress has been made on the restrictions as to cutting of trees in new developments. Mr. Ponder said the Planning Commission looked at that and tabled it for study. He asked if we can contact Riverfront's developer to tell them of our concern. Mr. Ponder said he contacted them and conveyed our concern but would do so again if they wish.

Councilman Stewart asked for clarification of the fire department report from Catawba Heights, which Mr. Ponder provided.

Mayor McLean had calls about Danny being off on vacation, and no one was here to sign permits when he is off work. Mr. Jackson said he came off vacation to sign those permits and they did not bring their site plans. Mayor McLean said he should not have to come off his vacation; that someone else should be able to do that while he is off.

City Manager Ponder said West Meck Optimist Club has requested to use Tuckaseege Park for a league. Councilman Hope said any use creates maintenance and utilities, and we have to be sure we are being properly compensated. Mr. Ponder said they would be paying outside fee. Councilman Stewart asked if that fee covers maintenance and utilities. Mr. Ponder said it does not. Councilman Black asked if their use would interfere with our citizens usage. He said the dates requested would not. He will look into a fee for outside of county users.

City Manager Ponder had a request from Gastonia to agree upon a set of rules for election campaign signs countywide. There have been complaints from election seekers that throughout the county they run into very many different regulations, and want a county wide regulation adopted by all the cities. It is a short time frame to adopt these proposed