

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Meeting
Monday, August 8, 2011
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Call to Order

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

Mayor Bryan Hough	Danny Jackson, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Breyare	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Greg Beal, Senior Planner
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Perry Toomey	Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Ed Smith, Recreation Director

Call to Order by Mayor Hough

Mayor Hough called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Pastor Angela Hollar from the Ebenezer Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Set Agenda

Mayor Hough advised that Item #2 Old Business *Consideration and Approval of Bids for the Proposed Public Works Facility Site*, needs to be taken off of the agenda and Item #2 New Business, *Discussion of the Community Relief Organization* needs to be added. With no additional changes to the agenda, Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of a Resolution to participate in the NCDOT Bridge Inspection Program
2. Approval of Lien for High Grass and Weeds for the following properties:
 - o 217 Piedmont Avenue
 - o 334 Valley Street
 - o 111 Tomberlin Road
 - o 206 Tomberlin Road
 - o 501 Elm Street
 - o 100 Maple Drive
 - o 214 Brookwood Road
 - o 107 Killian Avenue
3. Approval of an In Rem Demolition Ordinance for the Removal of a Dilapidated Structure Located at 407 Tuckaseegee Road
4. Approval of Acceptance of McKenzie Boulevard in the Mountain Island Village townhome subdivision
5. Approval to Permanently Close Crossover Street
6. Approval of Budget Amendments
7. Approval of the minutes for the June 13, 2011 business meeting
8. Approval of the minutes for the June 27, 2011 work session meeting
9. Approval of the minutes for the July 25, 2011 work session meeting

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation from the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation Organization and Citizens South Bank

Mr. Bobby Black and Ms. Missy Connell presented the City with a partial payment check on behalf of the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation and Citizens South Bank to assist with the cost of the audio visual equipment in the Council Chambers. He advised that this is the third of five payments.

2. Police Department Presentations to Sergeant Brian Regan and Sergeant David Sisk

Chief Belk advised that first he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Department Heads and Staff for a job well done during the storm and flood event that occurred on Friday.

Chief Belk asked Sergeant Brian Regan to come forward. Sergeant was then presented with his Advanced Professional Certificate. Chief Belk congratulated Sergeant Regan for reaching the most crowning achieving that a Police Officer can bestow in only 8 years into his career. Chief Belk named Sergeant Regan a “true leader within the department.”

At this time, Chief Belk explained that several years ago, Mount Holly had the opportunity to join in the Integrated SWAT Team Unit with other local Gaston County Municipalities. Sergeant David Sisk was picked from the Mount Holly Police Department to become part of this team. Chief Belk introduced Captain Duncan with the Gastonia Police Department. Captain Duncan explained the conditioning and physical strength standards that go along with being a part of this team. Captain Duncan explained the recent competition or which this team placed second. At this time he introduced the members of the Integrated SWAT Team unit. Mayor Hough concurred that Gaston County is truly blessed to have this program as part of community.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public hearing to consider amending Section 6, Table of Permitted Uses, of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for automotive repair in the H-1 Heavy Industrial District.

Mr. Beal advised that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on this item last Monday. He advised that the applicant did not show up for the public hearing and his wife came in 20 minutes late. He advised that the Planning Commission did not feel comfortable making a recommendation to Council without staff contacting the property owner to make sure the process is understood. Mr. Beal recommended that the Council move forward with the public hearing and take comment so staff would not have to advertise another public hearing.

At this time, Councilman Toomey made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Katheryn Church

810 West Central Avenue

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Church commented that she and her husband have done business in Mount Holly for years and wants to work with the City to do what is best for everyone involved.

With no one else signed up to speak, Councilman Bishop made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

At this time, Councilman Bishop made a motion to deny the text amendment and send the request back to the Planning Commission and Staff level to work out. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

Vicki McManus

121 West Central Avenue

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. McManus commented that her business was devastated by the flood on Friday. She advised that the flood was completely heartbreaking to the small area of downtown that was affected. She asked for the same support that the City has given the CRO in this crisis.

Betty Love

119 West Central Avenue

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Love commented that 2 years ago she and her husband came to Mount Holly looking for a place to open a business. She advised that they love Mount Holly and do all they can to help the CRO next door. She asked the City to please help the 5 businesses that were flooded to get back to normal.

Leigh Brinkley

120 Oakland Street

Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Brinkley commented that the problem of water and runoff needs a solution. She asked that everyone work together to come up with a solution to this problem.

OLD BUSINESS

1 Consideration and Approval of Proposal for Grease Removal System Program

Mr. Friday advised that he is before Council to ask for approval of a budget amendment for \$40,000 that would cover the expenses associated with the Grease Removal System as it relates to the 10 affected restaurants that may need modifications to their systems. Approval of this amendment would allow the City to loan the local restaurants the funds to move forward with the needed modifications. Mr. Friday advised that he is currently working with the City attorney on an application process. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Approval of Sadler Street Speed Limits

Mr. Santmire advised that a request was recently made by NCDOT to lower the speed limit on Sadler Street from 35 to 25 with no financial impact to the City. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Discussion of the Community Relief Organization

Ms. Putnum with the Community Relief Organization (CRO) thanked the safety departments and the staff for everything that was done during the flood event. She advised that the CRO lost everything except for what was stored on the top shelves. Ms. Putnam thanked the Council for allowing temporary housing in the annex of the old city hall. She advised that the CRO is taking one step at a time trying to get back on foot. Mayor Hough invited all Council members to attend a meeting that has been called on behalf of the CRO. He advised that all different community entities have been invited. At this time, Councilman Moore made a motion to allow the CRO to use the annex at the old city hall and with direction for city staff to work with the CRO on the details. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

At this time, there was discussion among Council regarding the debris removal at the businesses located in the flood area. Councilman Moore made a motion to waive the fee for bulk item pick up for the purpose of debris removal associated with this one time flood event. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

At this time, the City Attorney, Mr. Michael advised that the Council needs to approve an option, specifically option "C" as it relates to the bridge inspection program with NCDOT as approved as part of the Consent Agenda. Councilman Hope made a motion to approve option "C." Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Mayor Hough advised that he would like to go around the table before entering into closed session. All Council members highly praised the City Staff and Department Heads for the outstanding job and the professionalism during the recent disaster.

Mayor Hough echoed the rest of the Council members. He advised that until something like this happens you don't realize how highly trained the City Staff is.

Mr. Jackson commented that Department Heads, City Staff and Council deserve a tremendous amount of credit for the response during the flooding incident.

CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Breyare made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5)). Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to come out of closed session. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

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

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bishop made the motion to adjourn the August 8, 2011 Council meeting. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.