Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
August 05, 2003

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR
The work session meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Black. The following were present:

Mayor Bobby Black	City Manager David Kraus
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Hope	Assistant to City Manager Jamie Guffey
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Assistant to City Manager Danny Jackson
Councilman Michael Helms	Police Chief Bence Hoyle
Councilman Frank McLean	Interim Fire Chief John Calder
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard	Public Utilities Director Don Price
Councilman Bryan Hough	Streets and Solid Waste Director Mike Santmire
City Attorney Kemp Michael	

The Invocation was lead by Councilman McLean.

Item # 1 on the Agenda – Janet Bishop

City Manager Kraus stated that Ms. Bishop had been informed that she could not continue to operate her after school program at the Tuck building.

Ms. Bishop addressed the Council and stated that other for profit ventures are offered at the building and that she is in the business for the children. She also stated that if rent is a problem, that can be addressed.

Ms. Bishop then stated that Charlotte has 8 city owned sites that offer after school care and that she would like to stay open by having the Recreation Department take over the program.

Mayor Black asked about the time frame for removing the program from the building. City Manager Kraus stated that they would like to remain until at least the end of the calendar year.

Councilman Hough asked why this was being discussed. City Manager Kraus stated that staff feels the rent is unfair and Ms. Bishop would like for the City to take over the program. He also stated that the questions become do we endorse this vendor and do we want to get into the after school care business.

Councilman Hough then asked if Ms. Bishop was informed of Council's decision in May to end the use of the building at the end of the summer. City Manager Kraus stated that yes she was told, but signed up kids for the fall anyway.

Councilman Hough stated that he would like to see staff come up with a policy on the use of the building by private entities and we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Item # 2 on the Agenda – ABC Board

Mike Herring from the state ABC board addressed Council about the City's plan to open an ABC store. He stated that the biggest problems that face a store are limited profits and the talk of privatization. He stated that there are three other boards in Gaston County and that Gastonia is very profitable, Cherryville is barely profitable and that Bessemer City is not profitable at all.

Mr. Herring further stated that a merged board with Gastonia would be very beneficial to the City of Mount Holly. The Mount Holly store would become profitable quicker and would have the expertise of an existing board. He also stated that the State Commission recommends a merged board in any County that has over three independent boards.

City Attorney Michael stated that the City's protection in the merger would be in its contract with the Gastonia ABC Board and that staff would continue to talk with them about a possible merger.

Item # 3 on the Agenda – Riverfront

City Manager Kraus stated that Bill Rice asked for an extension on the letter of credit for the water line in Riverfront per ordinance and that that ordinance only allows for one extension. Duke Energy has stated that the path of the line is through an environmentally sensitive area.

Asst to City Manger Jackson stated that the ordinance extension of up to 6 months is over in September.

Bill Rice stated that he has talked to Duke and they do not let private developers cross environmentally sensitive areas, but they would let the City if it in the publics best interest.

Mayor Black asked if anyone from Council had any feelings on the matter. Councilman Hough asked when the original completion date was set for. Public Utilities Director Price stated that the line was to be completed in December 2002. Councilman Hough then asked when the developer found out about the sensitive area. Mr. Rice stated that it was after the original extension. Councilman Hough then stated that he was very disappointed in the developer for not having the line finished.

This was tabled until Monday night.

Item # 4 on the Agenda – Bond Committee

Mayor Black asked Council for names of citizens to serve on a committee to help select the engineers for the bond projects. He asked that if anyone has a name to have it ready for Monday night.

Item # 5 on the Agenda – Whitewater

Jeff Wise presented a Map of Vision for a whole park system along the Catawba that centers around the Whitewater Park. He stated that this is an excellent opportunity for the City of Mount Holly for Recreational tourism and for economic development. He stated that this could also lead to higher property values within the City.

Mr. Wise then stated that Charlotte has voted to support the Whitewater Park and that Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties are expected to vote to support the park this week.

City Manger Kraus stated that support for the Whitewater park is good but Council will still need to vote on a final contract before any money can be pledged to the park. He also stated that the final contract has not been drafted yet.

Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to approve the concept of pledging $1,000,000 to Whitewater pending approval of a final contract at a later date. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hough and passed with all in favor.

City Manager Kraus reiterated that this is not a pledge of $1,000,000 but is only an agreement to consider a final contract when it is presented to Council.

Councilwoman Harris **MOVED** for adjournment at 8:48. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hough and passed with no objections.

****

Robert D. Black

City Clerk

Mayor