Councilperson Hubbard stated that a citizen requested a four way stop sign at the corner of Rick Street and Park St. Mr. Michael stated that a signed petition by neighborhood was necessary and a representative should appear before Council with the petition.

Councilperson Harris stated that the Randy Pendleton Bridge has been cleaned up on one side but not the other side and there is an old mattress still on the other side.

Councilman McLean said that the road needs to be repaved at Price Street and Lowe Street. Also, there should be some tree trimming on Tuckaseegee Road.

There being no other items to discuss, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to leave regular session and go into closed session.

Motion: Councilman Hubbard made a motion to leave regular session and go into closed session. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt reconvened the meeting at 10:18 pm.

There being no other business, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Councilman McLean made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Councilman Moore seconding the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

____
Robert Whitt
Mayor

____
Ed Munn
Interim City Manager

____
Cass Roberts
Secretary

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 9, 2007
City Hall
7:00 pm

Call to Order
Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Robert Whitt	Ed Munn, Interim City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem Phyllis Harris	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman David Moore	Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	David Belk, Police Chief
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilperson Pat Hubbard	Kemp Michael, City Attorney
Councilman Frank McLean	Greg Beal, Planner
	James Friday, Director of Utilities

Invocation
Rev. Jeff Bost, Westview Presbyterian Church

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

Set the Agenda
Mayor Whitt asked for any changes or amendments to the Agenda.

Councilman Bishop asked that Item 3 on Consent Agenda, Surplus Pipe Offer, be moved to New Business, Item #3. Councilman Bishop recalled from previous minutes that Mr. Carlton Broome was to be reappointed to the ABC Board and wished to add this appointment to the agenda under New Business, Item #4.

Councilperson Hubbard wished to add the confirmation of Ms. Ann Danzi to the Mt. Island Lake Committee under New Business, Item #5.

Mr. Munn requested that a change be made to the Consent Agenda, Item #4, Tuckaseege Sewer Outfall Bypass (Bid Approval) be moved to Unfinished Business, Item 7, for discussion.

There were no objections.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Councilman Moore seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt reminded the audience that there was one Public Hearing on the agenda tonight and he invited citizens to sign up to speak on this item if they so wished. He added that there was a Public Comment period in the agenda tonight and invited citizens who wished to speak before Council to signup for that as well.

Presentations

1. To present an Advanced Professional Certificate of Police Sgt. David Roos, presented by David Belk, Police Chief.

Chief Belk began the presentation by stating that the NC Law Enforcement Commission has awarded the Advanced Professional Certificate to Police Sgt. David Roos. This Certificate holds statewide and nationwide recognition. It is the highest certification in North Carolina for a police officer and is based upon years of service, education level and training hours. Police Sgt. Roos is a 13 year veteran, a graduate of the Police Law Institute, and holds other notable achievements and awards.

Mayor Whitt invited Council to join him in front of the dais as he read the Advanced Professional Certificate honoring Police Sgt. David Roos. Mrs. Jenny Roos, wife of Sgt. Roos, participated in the event.

On another matter, on behalf of Council, Mayor Whitt congratulated Councilman David Moore on the recent birth of his daughter, Madeleine Grace Moore.

2. Stormwater Committee Report, presented by Ms. Wendy Foster and Mr. Ray Clemmer

Ms. Foster stated that Gaston County wants Mt. Holly to join forces with them with regards to a redevelopment ordinance, to enforce the ordinance regarding Stormwater and to collect the fees pertaining to impervious surface and the costs associated with it. Ms. Foster stated that Gaston County has made no post construction maintenance and management provisions and this was a concern for her and the committee. She said that Mt. Holly should decline the offer to join forces with the county to allow Mt. Holly to finish its ordinance and present it to Council.

Ms. Foster pointed out that the county does not have an escrow plan to provide maintenance. She thinks that this is not taking care of the future. Regarding the fees, Ms. Foster felt that the city could charge their own fees instead of paying the county to do so and would create funds that would be set aside for maintenance. Council and the Mayor agreed with many points that Ms. Foster brought to this meeting and expressed their appreciation for the work of the Stormwater Committee for the city.

Ms. Foster stated that the city has set up a system of credits and through education can show citizens and businesses how to save money. It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council that the Stormwater Committee should keep moving forward with their objectives as presented.

3. New City Website – David Jordan, Gaston Technical Support, Inc.

Mr. Jordan gave a brief overview of the website that had been built and that city employees have received training. The website has not been published to Google or any other search engines until the site has been completely finished and approved. Layout for every department is the same. Informational boxes, known as widgets, can be changed out and updated. Examples would be a weather widget, a welcome from Mayor widget, information on city department's widgets. All department heads will be able to update the site.

Another useful feature of the site is the capability similar to a radio station in that it will broadcast Mt. Holly events to Charlotte and other areas. Mr. Jordan added that we are ready to put the website on live.

Councilperson Hubbard asked what type of GIS information would be available on the site? Mr. Jordan stated that any map created and submitted by staff can be viewed on the site. Mayor Whitt wanted to see Council minutes put on website. Mr. Jordan said that they would be viewed on a page known as a citizen page. He added that there could be an employee page made for employee information and job postings.

Mayor Whitt asked when will the public be able to view the site? Mr. Jordan stated that as it stands now in a couple of days. Mayor Whitt stated that candidates for the new city manager position will be able to view this site.

It was the consensus of Council and the Mayor that Mr. Jordan should proceed with the site and hoped it would be complete by the end of the week. Mr. Jordan said that it would be complete by that time.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. To consider rezoning the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10, presented by Greg Beal.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to go out of regular session and to go into a Public Hearing to consider rezoning the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10.

Motion: Councilman McLean made a motion to go out of regular session and into Public Hearing to consider rezoning the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitt declared that we are Public Hearing for the purpose of considering rezoning the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10. One person has signed up to speak.

Rogers Hawkins
942 Deerfield Dr.
Mt. Holly, NC

Mr. Hawkins stated that he was a Realtor and represented both buyer and seller. He felt that the rezoning of the property at 147 North Main Street was in the best interests of Mt. Holly's downtown.

Greg Beal stated that the subject property, Oakleigh Estates, was rezoned from R-10, Single Family Residential, to a B-1 Conditional Use. The site specific plan includes multiple condominium buildings and a main house that is used as an office and club house. The present owner wishes to rezone the property back to R-10. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on July 2, 2007 on this request and they voted unanimously to recommend that City Council to approve this rezoning request. There were no questions or comments from Council.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing to rezone the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10 and go into the regular session.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to go out of Public Hearing and into regular session to rezone the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10. Councilman Moore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt asked Council if they were ready to take action on this request tonight.

Motion: Councilman Hope made a motion to rezone the lot located at 147 North Main Street, from B-1 CU to R-10. Councilperson Hubbard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Councilman Bishop made a motion to call for a Public Hearing at regularly scheduled City Council meeting on August 13, 2007 to change the line back that was originally the line for the downtown development ordinance that was adopted in 2005. Councilman McLean seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt asked that staff call for a Public Hearing on this item for the City Council meeting on August 13, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mayor Whitt stated that one person has signed up to speak on Greenways.

Scott Griffin
110 Oakland St.
Mt. Holly, NC

Mr. Griffin offered his thanks and a well done to the many citizens, Mr. Munn, Mr. Jackson, and other city employees, the FROGS (Friends of the Greenways) and the Parks and Recreation Committee for their efforts on behalf of Greenways. All have strived for getting it right the first time since we will get just one chance to do so. He offered congratulations on a job well done in securing the northern leg of the greenway all the way up to Mountain Island Lake as this area will belong to the citizens forever.

Mayor Whitt thanked Mr. Griffin for his comments. He also wanted the audience to know that the city did acquire over 200 acres from downtown Mt. Holly to the Mountain Island Dam for the greenway and asked staff to please include this information on the city website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
1. To consider approval of the Tuckaseege Park Expansion Redesigned Plan, presented by Danny Jackson.

Mr. Jackson provided a number of informative presentation boards for the audience and council and Mayor Whitt expressed his appreciation. Mr. Jackson began the presentation by stating that his presentation is a follow up to what Mr. Griffin had said in his presentation.

The Parks and Recreation Committee along with the Foundation and Chuck Flink made a decision about redesigning the park and the some of the drawings were provided by Ms. Deb Ryan. Some of the highlights of the redesign include 1.5 acres designated for the dog park, an 18 hole Frisbee golf course and the moving of the playground location.

Councilperson Hubbard asked about cutting down the size of the dog park and Mr. Jackson said that it was cut in half with the other half being reserved for future use. Other highlights include cutting parking spaces down to 130 spaces, the inclusion of trees and sidewalks, a portable staging area, a lookout tower, a greenway connection along the river, and a canoe and kayak launch.

Mr. Jackson hoped that Council would approve plan as presented so that staff can begin to secure bids to begin the work on the park. Mr. Munn stated that all this work will probably not be covered under the current budget. For Phase 1, the city has 1.3 million dollars with $500,000 from a state grant. Mr. Munn believed that basic things will have to done now and the city will have future opportunities to bring new dollars in each year for other phases of the park. He recommended that the city proceed with what funds we currently have along with the state grant. A brief discussion ensued and it was the consensus of Council and the Mayor to proceed with Phase 1 at this time.

There being no other questions or comments, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to approve the Tuckaseege Park Expansion Redesigned Plan as presented.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to approve the Tuckaseege Park Expansion Redesigned Plan as presented with Councilman Moore seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt asked staff to please put the information regarding the Tuckaseege Park Expansion Redesigned Plan on the city website.

2. Closeout of the Smith Street Sidewalk Project, presented by Jamie Guffey

Mr. Guffey stated that officially the Smith Street Sidewalk Project is near completion with no major items left on the punch list. Mr. Guffey suggested that if Council wishes to closeout this project, the city should leave the warranty bonds for 1 year until 6/20/08 and if any problems occur with this project, the city can use the bonds for payment of repairs.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to accept the Smith Street Sidewalk Project and release the retainage to Lee Skidmore, Inc.

Motion: Councilman Bishop made a motion to accept the Smith Street Sidewalk Project and release the retainage to Lee Skidmore, Inc. Councilman McLean seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Close out to the Streetscape Project, presented by Ed Munn

Mr. Munn stated that this project is near completion. Duke Power has been removing some of the overhead wiring and will be removing the remaining utility poles by the end of the week. He added that there are a few remaining items on the punch list but not major items. The city is holding $73,521 for this project and recommends a substantial completion date. Also, the city should consider releasing some of the retainage, but not all of it, to finish the work. Mr. Munn stated that this project is 99% finished, not 100% complete.

Councilman Bishop stated that the event power has not been settled. Mr. Munn asked Mr. Guffey how much are we holding on the electrical contract? Mr. Guffey said the amount was $5,200 from Fountain Electric. Mr. Guffey added that there is conduit under the tracks by the drycleaners and there should be a conduit under Main by the Wachovia Bank but it cannot be found. Sealand was supposed to put the conduit in and the electrical contractor was to pull the wire. Mayor Whitt felt that the conduit money for Sealand should be retained by the city until the work is done. Councilman Hope added that if a job is not complete, you do not get paid – it is as simple as that. Councilperson Harris asked why are we discussing this? Mr. Munn said that the contractor say that the job is done and they would like their money. Councilman Hope would like to see if the conduit is there as Sealand says it is and if it is, pay Sealand as soon as possible but not before they have finished all the work.

It was the consensus of Council and Mayor to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Whitt asked staff to put this item on the agenda for the August 13, 2007 City Council meeting and for staff to review the contract.

4. Discussion regarding a Dedication Ceremony for the new Streetscape Project, presented by Ed Munn

Councilperson Harris asked Councilperson Hubbard and Councilman Moore if they would help her with the plans for the Dedication Ceremony and both graciously agreed to help.

Councilman Hope said that he would like to see the dedication as soon as possible and that the street should be blocked off for the event.

Mayor Whitt suggested that the dedication could take place in conjunction with an Alive after 5 event. Council thought that the August 23, 2007 Alive after 5 event would be a good time to do it. The Council and the Mayor felt that the dedication could occur before the Alive after 5 event and discussed inviting Gaston County Commissioners, City Council members and Mayors from neighboring municipalities, as well as other dignitaries to the dedication.

Councilperson Harris suggested that a stage could be set up at 1:00 pm with band setups at 3:00 pm. Councilman Moore was concerned that if the time for the dedication is too early, citizens may not be able to attend due to work responsibilities. He stressed that he wanted to see Mt. Holly citizens at the dedication as this was their celebration.

Councilperson Harris stated that the committee would meet, gather the necessary information, and report back to Council.

5. Status report on Wastewater and Water Planning, presented by James Friday.
Mr. Friday stated the city has been talking with CMUD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department) and the city of Belmont regarding options to treat the city's wastewater. CMUD is working on their proposed study and the city of Belmont is considering connecting our system with their system in the area around Belmont Abbey. The city of Belmont has the capacity to treat our sewage as they have a 6 million gallon a day plant but only treat approximately 1.5 million gallons a day. Costs are still a major factor in this but can't be determined as yet until studies and options have been reviewed. Mr. Friday stated that the city is looking into ways to recycling our wastewater, increasing our permit size, as well as reverse osmosis methods and recycling.

Mr. Friday stated that National Gypsum has tapped onto our raw water line. The city has considered tapping onto Gastonia's raw water line as well and that would be helpful with a separate intake in the event of a problem.

Mayor Whitt asked about the water tank study. Mr. Friday stated that WK Dickson is waiting on our determination on how we wish to proceed. Mr. Munn added that he talked with Globe Mill and they prefer not to sell the site because they wish to use it themselves. Mr. Munn stated that we will have to decide what are the city's choices for second and third sites and he recommended that a full Utilities meeting was in order.

6. To consider possible Annexation Agreement with Greg Dimmer, Meadowbrook Estates, presented by Mr. Kemp Michael
Mayor Whitt stated that at the June 11, 2007 City Council meeting, Public Hearings were held to consider rezoning and annexing the proposed Meadowbrook Estates Subdivision as requested by the developer, Greg Dimmer. Council voted at the meeting to rezone the property but could not vote on the annexation because of the lack of an annexation agreement.

Mayor Whitt turned the presentation over to Mr. Michael.

Mr. Michael stated that he has been working with Mr. Dimmer drafting an annexation agreement for Council's review. He said that there are other outstanding issues as well. The letter of credit has been received by the city. The finalization of the right of way (ROW) where the sewer line is to be located has been determined as well.

Mr. Michael stated that an easement was recorded which indicates where the final sewer line would be. He pointed out that no other sewer line connection or stub outs to the city sewer line provided to the Dimmer's subdivision could happen without city consent. The easement would be satisfactory. Mr. Michael stated that he wasn't sure that the 8 inch sewer line proposed for Mr. Dimmer's subdivision would adequately support future expansion in the area.

Mayor Whitt asked about the 100 ft strip in this area that didn't have an easement. Mr. Michael said that he received an email today from Neil Capadia from Faison that an agreement has been reached with Mr. Dimmer to allow for additional ROW but the agreement isn't totally completed.

Mayor Whitt asked Mr. Michael if he had a recommendation for Council tonight? Mr. Michael stressed that for the ROW involving sewer lines and stub outs - all connections must be done with city approval.

It was the consensus that Council would consider an easement that is agreeable with the city attorney. Mayor Whitt suggested that Council should view the terms of the Faison easement before they went forward with any decision.

Councilman McLean stated that an 8 inch sewer line would be adequate but we need an engineer to signoff on it.

Councilman Hope stated that staff and Mr. Michael have worked diligently on this matter but some of the information brought forward this evening is new and Council is just hearing about it tonight.

Mayor Whitt agreed to call a special meeting to approve Annexation if all details are resolved to the City's Attorney's satisfaction. Mayor Whitt stated that the city must have final approval of any taps onto our system by others than the developer of this subdivision.

NOTE: Tape is off (8:45pm)

7. Tuckaseege Sewer Outfall Bypass (Bid Approval), presented by Ed Munn
Mr. Munn stated that the city explored the idea of bypassing the Tuckaseege Pump Station by a determination that a portion of the flow into the pump station could be diverted and some of the development on Highway 273 near the interstate could also use the bypass to reach the waste treatment plant. The new hospital has agreed to pay for the bypass and Mr. Michael is working on a contract for the construction. Bids were solicited for the project and Council awarded the project to the lowest responsible bidder, R. F. Shinn of Concord, NC, with a bid of $203,490.

Mr. Munn recommended approval of the bid but subject to the money being paid upfront by the hospital. Mr. Beal stated that he was informed by the hospital that a check will be written.

Motion: Councilman Hope made a motion to approve the lowest responsible bid presented by R. F. Shinn of Concord, NC in the amount of $203,490 for the Tuckaseege Sewer Outfall Bypass. Councilperson Harris seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt called for a 10 minute break.

NOTE: The recorder was reset.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

1. To call for a Public Hearing to adopt FEMA Floodplain Maps and Ordinance, presented by Danny Jackson and Greg Beal

Mr. Beal stated that any updates or changes to FEMA ordinance writings requires a Public Hearing and needs to be adopted at the August 13, 2007 City Council meeting. Mr. Jackson stressed the importance for the city to abide by this requirement.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to call for a Public Hearing to adopt FEMA Floodplain Maps and Ordinance at the August 13, 2007 City Council meeting.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to call for a Public Hearing at the August 13, 2007 City Council meeting with Councilman Moore seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt asked staff to place this item on the August 13, 2007 City Council meeting agenda.

2. To call for a Public Hearing to consider rezoning a lot located at 106 Rose Street, from B-2 to R-12, presented by Greg Beal.

Mr. Beal stated that the owner of 106 Rose Street, Mr. Ben Brookshire, contends that this property was never used as a business, just residential. Mayor Whitt wondered when was this property was zoned business. Mr. Beal said it was zoned business in 1989. Councilman Bishop said that there has never been a business there, just a house. Councilperson Harris stated that the properties surrounding this area are zoned business. Mayor Whitt was concerned that this proposed change in zoning may set up a precedent that would shrink the tax base. Mr. Beal added that presently this property is being used to park cars.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to call for a Public Hearing to consider rezoning a lot located at 106 Rose Street from B-2 to R-12.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to call for Public hearing to consider rezoning a lot located at 106 Rose Street from B-2 to R-12 with Councilman McLean seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Surplus Pipe Offer

Councilman Hope stated that about three years ago, the city purchased 8 inch ductile iron pipe for a sewer replacement project for $15,000. It was never used because of technical problems and the project was never done. The pipe is stored at the new Citizens Center location. Council declared the pipe surplus and the city advertised for sealed bids. There were two sealed bids received – one for $3,690.88 and the other for $2, 952.00.

Motion: Councilman Bishop made a motion that the city should reject the bids and put the iron pipe on the government auction website at a minimum bid by determined Mr. Guffey and Mr. Friday. Councilman Moore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Reappointment of Mr. Carlton Broome to the ABC Board

Mayor Whitt stated that at the June 11, 2007 City Council meeting, Council had referenced the reappointment of Carlton Broome to the ABC Board beginning July 1, 2007 for a 3 year period.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to reappoint Mr. Carleton Broome to the ABC Board beginning July 1, 2007 for a 3 year period. Councilman McLean seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Reappointment of Ms. Ann Danzi to the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission.
Councilperson Hubbard stated that the commission term of Ms. Ann Danzi to the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission which began Sept 9, 2004 will expire in October of this year. Ms. Danzi was appointed by the Gaston County Commissioners upon our recommendation and represents the city very well.

Motion: Councilperson Hubbard made a motion to ask the Gaston County Commissioners to reappoint Ms. Ann Danzi for another 3 year term to the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission. Mr. McLean seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilperson Hubbard asked staff to write a letter to the Gaston County Commissioners with this recommendation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Construction Committee
a. Progress report
Councilman Hope stated that there has been discussion about a change order for windowsills on the outside of the City Hall/Community Building facing Central Avenue. Concrete sills on the outside will cost $5,100 and $11,000 for the inside. Councilman Hope asked Council what their thoughts were on the change order for the outside sills. Councilman Bishop agreed with the change order for $5,100 for the outside and he felt that we didn't need the extra expense on the inside and matching the brick would pose a problem as well. Councilman Hope stated that the Construction Committee will be meeting tomorrow and will report back to Council with any change order information.

Councilman Hope added that he asked the architect for a schedule of contingencies and change orders. There will be extra costs associated with the new building such as the conduit needed by IT, the tile, and the carpet and these will be discussed at another time.

b. Audio visual
Mr. Guffey stated that Display Solutions prepared a proposal for the City Council Chamber Room in the City Hall/Community Building. Four 50 inch monitors will be installed on the walls in Council Chambers and when they are not in use, they can be folded flat against the wall. These will replace the drop down screens initially being considered. The system will also have a built in recording device and the speakers will be built into the system. The total price for the equipment is $34,980 including installation.

Mr. Munn stated that the Capital Reserve has around $600,000 to finish the building and includes the audio visual equipment. Councilman Moore stated that Citizens South going to help recoup some of these costs with $5,000 a year for 5 years totally $25,000.

Councilperson Hubbard asked if our new system be compatible for a speaker who wishes to provide a presentation. Mr. Guffey stated that there will be a separate port for their use that would be compatible.

Councilman McLean stated that the Council room needs a timer with a buzzer for timing speakers and Mr. Guffey said that this will be looked into.

Councilman Moore thought 17 gooseneck mikes was an excessive number and wondered if the number could be trimmed. Mr. Guffey stated that this number will be trimmed to 14.

Councilman Bishop wanted the wiring to be done before the dry walling. Councilman Hope asked Mr. Guffey to find out what the fee would be to rough this in.

Mayor Whitt asked Council if they needed to appropriate funds from the capital reserve to move on this contract? Mr. Guffey asked that Council wait until he had exact amount to appropriate the funds.

There was a consensus from Council and the Mayor that the price of the system was not excessive.

Mr. Guffey stated that the phone and security systems might be leased systems and this could save money as well.

<u>c. Communication Tower</u>

Chief Belk began the presentation by stating that the communication tower is an unfunded project for the new building. At this time, the city is at a crossroads and options are needed to be considered regarding the new software for the 911 system. Chief Belk stated that he had three options for Council to consider.

Option 1 is to keep our current system, move to new building, relocating our communication center, relocating our present tower, purchasing new software for 911 - this option would cost $343,692. He added that there will be no walkie-talkie coverage for the city officers in many areas as our current system is too old to accommodate that type of communication.

For Option 2, the city would relocate the present communication center but would need a new 180 foot tower because north of the center of town there is a loss of communication coverage. He said that the city would need the new communications software and all these costs for Option 2 would cost $469,077.

For Option 3, the following would be included in the price of $671,671:

- 800 MHz No Tower Antenna
- Conv. Antenna 800 MHz radio consoles
- Relocate to the Communications Center
- Communications Software
- 35 Walkie-Talkies
- 30 Car Radios

- Engineer on-site
- Installation and programming

Chief Belk stated that Option 3 would give the city ***interoperability***. All fire, all police would be on one frequency. All officers can be called to one scene with the use of one button. Coverage would be the entire county for car radios and walkie-talkies.

Chief Belk stated that funding of $458,000 for this upgrade would come from the following and the balance of $213,671 would be funded by lease purchase over the next 4 years:

- $100,000 from E911 Fund
- $58,000 from Federal Asset Forfeiture
- $300,000 from the Capital Reserve

Mr. Munn added that if we received the grant, this system would be much cheaper. If we don't receive the grant, there would be a problem. The grant is being written for the county by the city of Gastonia. Councilman Hope stated that in three to five years we will probably have to spend this money anyway for communications and if we don't upgrade now, we could spend twice the money.

Chief Belk warned that if we stayed on our current radio system as it is and didn't upgrade, we would be told by the FCC that our radio frequency would have to be reduced as well as our radio coverage would be reduced.

A brief discussion ensued.

Chief Belk asked the Council and Mayor for direction.

Chief Belk also pointed out that Option 1 and Option 3 have different physical and space requirements and that information needs to be considered for the new building.

It was the consensus of Council and the Mayor that the upgraded system was the right way to go but worried about the funding and whether the city would receive the grant. Chief Belk suggested that perhaps we can wait and see if we get the grant by the end of September and then Council could make their decision.

Mr. Munn added that the present system can be used in the same location and when these properties are sold, more revenue will be generated to pay for the system and replenish the funds.

Motion: Councilman Hope made a motion that Council should proceed with the 800 system based upon the recommendation of the Construction Committee. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Archives Room Options

Councilman Hope stated that the second floor of the new City Hall/Community Building would have space for archival records but these archives should be located away from the windows. Councilperson Harris said that some things need to be disposed of and asked if some of the archives could be kept in the present city hall to have the time to sift through them. Councilman McLean agreed that the archived material could be left in the present City Hall for a little while. Councilman Hope said that they will discuss this at the Construction Committee meeting tomorrow.

2. Special Events Committee

1 & 2. Councilperson Harris said that the reports she received about the Alive after 5 event were very good. There were 2- 3 times the number of people at this event than at any other event. She said that she received a lot of phone calls from other businesses in Mt. Holly who were interested in participating in food options.

Mayor Whitt thought that perhaps a similar downtown committee such as the Downtown Development Corporation in Gastonia could run these events. Councilman Moore stated that if we have continued sponsorship we should continue to do Alive after 5 events after August into the Fall. Councilperson Hubbard thought that September and October would be excellent times for the Alive after 5 events.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to approve the sale of beer and wine within the same corded off designated area such as the area that was designated at the previous Alive after 5.

Motion: Councilman Moore made a motion to approve beer and wine sales within the same corded off designated area at the Alive after 5 events in Mount Holly with Councilperson Harris seconding the motion. The motion carried by the vote of Councilpersons Hubbard and Harris, Councilmen Bishop and Moore. Councilmen McLean and Hope opposed the motion. The motion carried.

3. River Float update

Councilperson Harris stated that the River Float is on schedule for August 25, 2007, from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. The Boy Scouts will be helping with this event. There will be rides on recreational equipment such as the Moon Walk and the city would get 10% of the proceeds from these rides.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Munn stated that there will be a newsletter coming out in a couple of weeks.

The Wester Road by the National Gypsum plant will be upgraded at no cost to the city. Mr. Michael stated that he doesn't have all the information at this point but what National Gypsum wants from Council is a Letter of Intent that once that road is brought up to city specifications – meaning A-1 condition, then the city would take it over as a city street. Mr. Michael added that Powell Bill money maintains the streets, not the city funds. A brief discussion ensued. No action was needed at this time.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Council Bishop stated that Perry Toomey of 203 Dogwood is concerned about his water pressure which had been checked by the city and it was fine. Mr. Toomey wants to drill a well just for irrigation purposes. Mr. Toomey said that he was to appear before Council on this matter

at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Councilman Bishop told him he would mention this situation at Council tonight.

Mr. Michael stated that if the city provides the availability of water and sewer services, you must tie your residence onto it. Mr. Jackson stated that in order to drill a well, there are certain permits and restrictions that must be adhered to by Gaston County Health Department.

Mayor Whitt asked Mr. Friday to look into city policy on wells and report back to Council at their work session.

2. Councilman McLean stated that he received complaints about the video store watering their grass early in morning which sprays water on the sidewalk.

3. Councilperson Harris asked about the excess asphalt from Streetscapes - would it be available for a citizen to take to put it at his boat landing area? Mr. Munn said that we use this excess asphalt for patching and fill and putting it by a boat landing is not a good idea. It was decided by Council and the Mayor that the excess would not be available for this use.

Councilperson Harris stated that $750 has been received for an Alive after 5 event by National Gypsum.

4. Councilperson Hubbard pointed out that the Ordinances to establish liens on Howard, Cherry and Wood Streets have the notary note of David Kraus on the back - the liens are correct but the person who signed them is not be correct. Mr. Michael asked who has the information on these liens? Mr. Jackson said that they were on his desk and he was not aware of who put them on his desk. Mr. Michael said that he didn't recall preparing these liens. Mr. Munn suggested that these may be a Code Enforcement issue and were probably done some time ago. It was the consensus of Council and the Mayor that these ordinances should be rescinded so that research can be done and information can be given to Mr. Michael for his determination.

Mayor Whitt asked for a motion to rescind the approval of the ordinances to establish liens on certain real properties on Howard, Cherry, and Wood Streets as presented and placed on the consent agenda for this meeting.

Motion: Councilperson Hubbard made a motion to rescind the approval of the ordinances to establish liens on certain real properties on Howard, Cherry, and Wood Streets as presented and placed on the consent agenda for this meeting. Councilman Moore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Councilperson Hubbard asked for an update on the CSX on Hawthorne. Councilman Hope stated that it was paved but it looked "temporary."

6. Councilman Bishop stated that the traffic light is crooked by the Food Lion at Highland and South Main. By the BB&T bank, there is a tree that needs to be moved.

7. Councilman Moore stated that there should be "no truck" signs downtown and trucks should stay on the bypass.

8. Councilman Bishop was concerned about the train speed coming through town for the pedestrian crossing.

Mayor Whitt asked that the following items be put on the next work session agenda: leasing retail space at the new Citizens center, the A&E greenway easement, and the surplus property for sale.

Mayor Whitt asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and the potential property purchase and/or lease.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made a motion to go into closed session with Councilman Moore seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Councilman __________ moved to go out of closed session and return to regular session with Councilman _____________ seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

Motion: Councilperson Harris made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting with Councilperson Hubbard seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:45pm.

____
Robert Whitt
Mayor

____
Edward Munn
Interim City Manager

____
Cass Roberts
Secretary