

Regular Meeting
 Mount Holly City Council
 July 8, 1991

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Charles B. Black, Jr. Those present were Councilwomen Faye S. Little and Lib Nichols, Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Jessen, Councilmen Myles Biggerstaff, R. L. Duke, Archie Small, City Manager Greg Young, City Attorney Kemp Michael, Public Works Director Eddie Nichols, Police Chief Jerry Bishop, and the Zoning Administrator Gary Roberts.

The invocation was led by Reverend T. Wayne Preuse.

The minutes of June 10 and 17, 1991 were approved as written upon motion made by Councilman Duke, with a second by Councilwoman Little, with all in favor.

Mayor Black read two resolutions, one being in support of the new rehabilitation hospital being located in Gaston County, and one honoring American & Efird upon it's centennial celebration, both of which were adopted upon motion by Councilman Biggerstaff, seconded by Councilwoman Little, with all in favor.

Mrs. Reecie Byrd, 130 Summitt, read the following statement: "Good evening Mayor Black, Councilmembers. My name is Reecie Byrd and my address is 130 Summit Avenue, Mount Holly. I represent the Mount Holly Garden Club. The members of our Club are concerned about our environment. As everyone knows our world is in trouble. We can still take pride in the beauty of our City and our State, but it won't be beautiful long if it is buried under garbage dumps and covered with gray smoke and ash from an incinerator! Landfields and incinerators do not go away. We have to change our wasteful habit of throwing everything in the trash. We have to recycle! We believe most of the people in Mount Holly would recycle if we had a centrally located recycling center. We need a place with easy access that is clean and well lit. The center needs to stay open late enough for people to use after work. Everything we recycle helps our environment in many ways and saves the City of Mount Holly twenty-two dollars a ton in tipping fees." Mrs. Byrd then presented a petition to the Council signed by 233 persons. She also gave them the names of companies that take newspapers, steel cans, aluminum cans and glass. Councilwoman Little said she is in favor of recycling, and asked if they have a site in mind. Mrs. Byrd said there are several that have been mentioned. Mayor Black said the citizens of Mount Holly want to recycle, but we need a good location. Mrs. Delores Childers said the Club recommends it be behind the police station since it would be lit, and people would be more likely to keep it clean. She also stated that many of the recyclers will pay the City for them

to be allowed to pick up the materials being recycled. Mrs. Byrd said there is a wooded lot on Beatty Drive that has been offered for lease. Mrs. Rosa Crist also mentioned the possibility of using the parking lot behind where Henry Rhyne's, Walter Baker's, and Dr. Duke's offices are. Councilman Small said he and this Council have backed recycling since it's beginning, and he felt it a shame that Mount Holly is last to establish a program; and he suggested the parking lot at Shooters Express as another possible site. Councilwoman Little moved that the City Manager check on leasing a site for a recycling center, seconded by Councilman Biggerstaff and passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Henry Fowler, III, Attorney for Velma Garner, was recognized. He appeared regarding the adoption of a demolition order. He thanked the Council for its patience. They have a contractor lined up and were requesting some more time to get the requirements met which were given last month. Councilwoman Little moved to grant an extension of ten days from that evening to Velma Garner to produce the requirements previously given. Councilman Duke seconded the motion, and it carried by unanimous vote.

Phoenix Management Systems gave a status report of the public housing units. They said good progress has been made at Holly Hills with regard to security. They felt that it may be necessary to have the same thing at Rollins Square due to an incident the past Friday night; although previously Rollins Square has been very quiet. Mayor Black said that HUD has notified them they are not in compliance with reports filed. PMS said they have sent in the requested items from that compliance report, and believe they are now in compliance. They have a 1992 budget ready to submit. They had fired the landscapers because of a poor job; they were not keeping the grass cut or weeds down. Councilman Biggerstaff asked what PMS does if someone leaves who owes a lot of money. PMS said if they serve the person with a complaint, they get a money judgement; if not, they turn it over to the credit bureau. Mayor Black asked what the procedure is if a tenant does not pay. PMS said they send a late notice, followed by a conference by the manager to set up a repayment schedule, and finally eviction. City Manager Young said the budget has been reviewed by Trent Wilson, and has indicated certain blanks which must be completed, on the January 1 to June 30, 1991 budget for Holly Hills. Councilman Biggerstaff moved that upon the City Manager's recommendation the budget for January 1 to June 30, 1991 at Holly Hills be accepted, seconded by Councilman Jessen, and unanimously carried. City Manager Young said the July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992 budget is to be presented to him Thursday by PMS and he will send it out to the Council.

City Manager Young said the new Agreement between the City and N.C. Department of Transportation for inspection of municipal bridges is the same as two years ago, in which the City pays 20% of the cost. We have three bridges currently. Councilwoman Little moved to accept the City Manager's recommendation to approve the said agreement, Option C, seconded by Councilman Jessen, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Black said the State does not intend to do any more about the guard rail on the Rankin Avenue bridge. City Manager Young suggested that guard rails be put on two corners to cut the cost. Councilwoman Little asked the City Attorney if it would be appropriate for the City to only use two guard rails. Mr. Michael said the City can do as it wishes, but in his opinion, the dropoffs are great on both sides, and no one can predict the way a car will run off a bridge. Councilman Biggerstaff moved that, since a life could be saved and the City's liability protected, the City Manager is authorized to get formal bids and proceed to have the four guard rails placed at Rankin Avenue bridge for an amount not to exceed \$8,500.00, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Little, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Jim Hope's term has expired on the Planning and Zoning Board, and the terms of Jack Rhyne and Charles Jones will expire in September, and the Council was asked to refill these positions. Councilwoman Little moved to table the matter until the next regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Biggerstaff, with all in favor.

The floor was opened to complaints or petitions not on the agenda. Mr. James Howard, 156 Glenn Drive, said he has property out North Main Street at Davenport Road, and part of it is in the City, so he wants the other two lots to be inside the City; his objective is to obtain utilities from the City. The City Attorney said Mr. Howard would have to follow the procedure for voluntary annexation and the City must make the choice about the utilities. Councilman Biggerstaff asked if Mr. Howard was intending for the City to install the utilities if he petitioned for annexation; he said he did. Mr. Michael said the cost would have to be considered before the petition could be accepted or denied. Mr. Eddie Nichols said there would be about 300 foot of line, and it would have to be from the other side of North Main Street. Mr. Nichols offered an alternative; the City could place two meters for the two back lots on North Main Street, and Mr. Howard would put in his own lines from the meters to the lots. The front lot can already be served because it is on North Main Street. He said if the City runs the line down Davenport Road, it would be the wise thing to put in a six inch water and eight inch sewer line for future use; in addition, he said some of the street may not be able to be gravity fed, so it would be expensive to serve. His rough estimate for these lines would be \$8,000

or \$9,000. Councilwoman Little and Councilman Biggerstaff both felt the most economic thing would be to have Mr. Howard run his own lines from North Main Street to the two rear lots. The Council concurred.

Mayor Black said that there had been problems with the flags being put in the sidewalk, so they have obtained an estimate of \$800 for metal poles and attachments, all weather flags, with lights, which can be left out at all times. Councilman Biggerstaff moved to expend up to \$800 for 18 flags and poles, seconded by Councilman Duke, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Black was approached by the Department of Motor Vehicles about the office they rent at City Hall; they want to find a larger place. He is concerned because there is no more room at City Hall, and he wants them to stay in Mount Holly, so he asked that the Council let him know if they know of another site.

Councilman Biggerstaff asked the City Manager to check lighting on Maple Avenue.

Councilman Biggerstaff said the undergrowth needs to be cut at Fite Road because the view for drivers is blocked. Mr. Nichols said it has been cut, but he had noticed it needs to be cut more.

Councilwoman Nichols suggested that an ordinance be passed to prohibit plantings on the corners. Mr. Michael said the City has a sight ordinance. Mr. Roberts said a triangular area on the corner of residential areas cannot have growth over three feet high.

Councilwoman Nichols said that a woman told her that she had called City Hall and asked about how to have her tree cut so the wood could be picked up by the City and was told how long it had to be, but not that it could not be over six inches wide, so now she is upset because the City won't pick it up. City Manager Young said that contractors are supposed to take it off anyway; but for individual property owners the City picks up wood no more than six feet long or six inches wide. He is checking into why the lady was not given the proper answer.

Councilwoman Nichols said the State has not taken down the one way signs on the Tuckaseege bridge; and she said the guard rail at that bridge sticks out too far. Mr. Young will check on these.

Councilman Small has gotten a lot of complaints about people using the handicapped parking space at the post office who are not handicapped. The police can enforce by ticketing if the signs are in the upright position.

Councilman Small has had an inquiry about mosquito control being done in Mount Holly. The Council concurred that the chemicals are too dangerous and encouraged property owners to keep clear yards, and to remove standing water.

Councilman Duke announced the COG meeting for Wednesday night in Gastonia.

Councilman Jessen asked why there are no lights on the bypass yet. Mr. Young said DOT has rejected Duke Power's plan twice, in the Shelby office. Mr. Young has appealed the matter to Raleigh, and since the lights are installed in the right of way, it cannot be done until an encroachment agreement is given to put up the lights.

Councilwoman Little noticed a satellite dish has been put in the front yard of someone's house on the corner of Summitt, and it is not attractive. She would like the Council to consider an ordinance requiring them to be out of sight of the road. Mr. Roberts said he has some samples from other cities which he will use to bring a proposed ordinance to the next regular meeting.

City Attorney Michael said the Court of Appeals has ruled in Mount Holly's favor with regard to the Blanton Sanitation matter, who sued the City claiming that it did not treat them fairly per the Statute during the annexation. The Court order basically stated the City Attorney did what he was supposed to do under the Statute.

City Manager Young said the Council might consider adopting an ordinance prohibiting all weapons on City property. the City Attorney was asked to work on this.

Mr. Young said that BFI is going to increase it's fee in accordance with the tipping fees increase from the County on July 1 to \$22.00 a ton.

The City Manager stated that he has the proposed contracts with the engineer for work on elevated tanks, which he will hold until after the budget is adopted.

Mayor Black stated that the State is attempting to cut out more of the funds which have been paid to cities in the past, and this will affect our budget.

City Manager Young said that the City's interim budget will expire on July 31. Councilwoman Little moved to adopt an interim budget for the month of August for the same amount as was approved for July, which was seconded by Councilman Duke, with all in favor.

The Council took a five minute recess.

