

Special Meeting
Mount Holly City Council
June 23, 1997

A special meeting of the Mount Holly City Council was held at City Hall, and was called to order by Mayor Frank McLean at 7:30 P.M. Those present were Mayor Pro Tem Michael Helms, Councilwoman Phyllis Harris, Councilmen Jim Hope, R. L. Duke, Andy Stewart and David Hostetler, Jr., as well as City Manager Phil Ponder, Administrative Services Director Sherry Borgsdorf, Police Chief Jerry Bishop, Fire Chief Andy Godfrey, Planning Director Danny Jackson, Public Works Director Eddie Nichols and Recreation Director Tareyton Stowe.

The invocation was led by Councilman Jim Hope.

Mayor McLean indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to finalize the FY 1997/1998 Budget and ask if there were any questions about the budget. Councilmembers Helms, Stewart and Hostetler expressed concern that the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) recommended within the budget was high, in light of the merit pay plan recently implemented by Council. City Manager Ponder provided information from other cities in Gaston County that he felt justified the increase. Council agreed to leave the 3.5 COLA intact, and indicated that the employee salary package would need to be discussed in greater detail prior to the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Hostetler indicated that funds should be added to the budget to enhance the beauty of the City. Councilmember Duke **MOVED** to place \$2,790 in the budget to protect and enhance the appearance of crepe myrtles in the downtown; seconded by Councilmember Hope, with all in favor. Councilmember Hostetler **MOVED** to place \$3,750 in the budget to purchase banners for the downtown; seconded by Councilmember Stewart. Councilmembers Hostetler and Stewart voted in favor of the motion; Councilmembers Hope, Harris, Duke and Helms voted in opposition to the motion, which failed. Councilmember Hostetler expressed concern about the condition of the two flower planters located adjacent to the square in the downtown. City Manager Ponder suggested that these improvements be considered with the installation of a fountain adjacent to City Hall.

Councilmember Helms voiced concern about the inclusion of \$35,000 in the budget to restore the 1945 OREN Fire Truck, and suggested that efforts be made in the community to raise the money. Councilmember Helms agreed to lead such a fund raising effort, and Council agreed to remove the money from the budget.

Councilmember Hostetler expressed his desire to see the City exert more effort to recruit business and industry to the area, and suggested the hiring of a staff person to focus on such efforts. Councilmember Stewart concurred with the position of Mr. Hostetler. Council agreed that efforts should be made toward recruitment, but did not feel ready to add a staff person.

Council indicated that additional input from the community was necessary; and felt that contingency funds could be used during the year if a specific course of action could be agreed upon.

Councilmember Duke **MOVED** that the tax rate in Mount Holly be reduced from forty-five cents per hundred dollars of valuation to forty-four cents per hundred dollars of valuation; seconded by Councilmember Helms. Upon a vote, Councilmembers Stewart, Harris and Hostetler voted in opposition to the motion. Mayor McLean broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion, which passed.

Councilman Hope **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance 6-23-97A (attached) to adopt the FY 1997/1998 budget with the following changes:

ADD \$2,790 for Crepe Myrtle Maintenance/100-420-5-347.01
 DELETE \$35,000 for Fire Truck Restoration/100-530-5-103.02
 ADD \$42,500 for Kendrick Industrial Park/400-570-5-346.00
 ADD \$3,000 for Downtown Furniture/100-420-5-974.01
 ADD \$36,000 for Police Computer System/100-510-5-976.00

Councilmember Harris seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Four budget amendments were approved as presented by the City Manager, upon **MOTION** of Councilmember Hope, seconded by Councilmember Duke, with all in favor. (copies attached)

City Manager Ponder requested permission from Council to draft a letter for the Mayor's signature to the local legislative delegation requesting financial analysis be performed to determine the potential impact of HB 515 - Clean Water Responsibility Act. Council authorized the letter.

City Manager Ponder indicated that recycling containers and information would be distributed to the initial 236 participants of the recycling program by July 1st.

City Manager Ponder indicated that a reporter from Ontario, Canada had contacted him regarding the development of a Freightliner manufacturing plant in Ontario.

City Manager Ponder requested direction in regard to airport discussions scheduled for the July 14th regular council meeting. Council directed that: 1. Mr. Jerry Orr, Aviation Director, not attend the July meeting; 2. that the matter not be placed on the July agenda; and 3. city facilities be made available to local residents that may want to meet with Mr. Orr.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


 City Clerk


 Mayor
