

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, June 12, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Mayor Bryan Hough	Danny Jackson, Interim City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris	Brian DuPont, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Ivory Craig	Brian Reagan, Police Chief
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	Tony Walker, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker	Jonathan Wilson, Director of Utilities
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor
	Michelle Wood, Finance Director

Invocation

Councilman David Moore led Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council, staff and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Hough advised that item #2 under presentations will be moved to #5. With no additional changes to the agenda Councilman Meadows made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Budget Amendments (year-end)
2. Approval of Release of Letter of Credit of Imagery Phase I
3. Appointment of Parks & Recreation Commission member
4. Call for a public hearing to consider a proposed text amendment to permit lounges to operate in the B-1, B-2, & B-3, with certain conditions. The proposed text amendment would update the following sections of the Zoning Ordinance: 3.26, 6.5, 7.1, & 8.1.
5. Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2023 Council Work Session Meeting
6. Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2023 Closed Session

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation from Daimler Truck

Joanna Cooper

Ms. Joanna Cooper, GM of Operations for the Mount Holly Daimler plant came before the Council to make a presentation that described the progression of the Mount Holly plant over the years. She advised that they recently celebrated the completion of their 750,000th truck from the Mount Holly facility. She advised that Daimler has a very diverse, very skilled work force. Daimler works to protect the environment while building faster, better, stronger trucks. Daimler will be rolling out their first electric truck in the near future. Ms. Cooper commented that they are looking forward to the continued partnership with the City and are always looking for ways to give back to the community.

2. Presentation by the Mount Holly Athletic Association donating funds to purchase a PA system for Tuckaseege Park Ballfield

Marty Taylor and Jenn Thompson with the Mount Holly Athletic Association came before the City Council to donate funds in the amount of \$9,000 for a PA System at Tuck Park. Mr. Taylor advised that the MHAA has donated funds in the past for score boards, volleyball equipment and baseball equipment among other things. Ms. Thompson commented that the Association has other funding projects they are currently working on. She advised that their next project is funding scoring huts for Tuck Park in hopes this will elevate the park and make it more attractive to some of the state championship tournaments. The cost of the scoring huts will be provided to the City Council at a future meeting.

3. Presentation from the Gaston County Fire Fighters Association *Josh Brown*

Josh Brown with the Gaston County Fire Fighters Association came before the City Council to recognize the East Gaston Volunteer Fire Department Mount Holly Fire Department for their assistance on a call on a lifesaving call at Gaston County Dye and Machine on August 8, 2022. Within 2 minutes of the call East Gaston was on the scene. CPR and 2 shots were administered and by the time EMS arrived the gentleman was breathing and had a pulse. Mr. Brown recognized Patrick Mayhew, Blake Buchanan, Zechariah Wiggs and Hayden Kish individually and presented the Mount Holly Fire Department with a certificate to hang on the wall at the station.

4. Presentation by the Mount Holly Police Foundation donating the funding for the First Annual Kids Camp

Reeves McGlohan came before the City Council to present a check for funding from the Mount Holly Police Foundation for the first annual Kids Camp. He advised that being in education most of his life this program is near and dear to his heart. The program is designed to help kids understand the ins and outs of law enforcement. Mr. McGlohan thanked Chief Reagan for creating this opportunity for our local kids. He and the other Police Foundation members that were present presented Chief Reagan with a check for \$2200. Chief Reagan thanked the foundation for their support and commented that the kids were selected by the school principles for their leadership skills.

5. Presentation by the Centralina Council of Governments

Executive Director Geraldine Gardner with the Centralina Council of Governments (COG) came before the City Council to present a proposal to assist with the search for a new City Manager. Ms. Gardner explained some options the COG uses in the process for searching and interviewing the prospective candidates. She advised that for a position of this significance it should be left open for 30 days. Council will decide the preference with the interview process, a selection committee or an assessment center. She advised that the salary range will have to be competitive with the greater Charlotte area and only interview very qualified candidates. Ms. Gardner gave a timeline of advertising for the position for 30 days, interviews in August and by September make and offer and do background checks. She commented that some candidates ask for confidentiality and that has to be upheld during the hiring process. Mayor Hough advised that he feels the best option would be a Council/Staff Hiring Committee led by Mr. Jackson. Councilman Craig made a motion to use the Centralina Council of Governments for the City Manager hiring process. Mayor Pro Tem Harris seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Budget Highlights and Public hearing on the 2023-2024 proposed Fiscal Year Budget and Fee Schedule

Mr. DuPont reviewed that 2023-2024 budget highlights. He advised that the proposed tax rate is 40.5 cents with no increase in water and sewer rates. The budget includes the implementation of the salary study, 3% COLA, 5% merit increases and 12 new Fire Fighter positions. He advised that there is no increase in employee health insurance costs and no changes to the Council compensation. \$1,287,968 of unassigned fund balance was used to balance the general fund budget. At this time. Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to enter into and public hearing on the 2023-2024 proposed Fiscal Year Budget and Fee Schedule. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. With no one

signed up to speak, Councilman Meadows made a motion to come out of the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Harris seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Mayor Hough commented that proposed tax rate of 40.5 cents is a decrease from 48.5 cents last year. In addition to dropping the tax rate 8 cents the budget includes 2 new fire trucks and 12 new fire fighter positions

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

No one was signed up to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule as presented. (Resolution # 06122023A) Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jackson complimented staff on a job well done.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (5)

Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to enter into Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(5) at 7:53pm. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

Councilman Moore made a motion to come out of closed session and back into regular session at 9:08pm. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

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

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to adjourn the June 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.