

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Location: Council Chambers

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2021
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Hough called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and advised that Councilman Moore is attending the meeting virtual. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	Miles Braswell, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Shoemaker	Don Roper, Police Chief
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Brian Reagan, Deputy Police Chief
Councilman Charles McCorkle	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor
Councilman David Moore—Virtual	Tony Walker, Street and Solid Waste Director
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	David Johnson, City Engineer/ Director of Utilities
	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Marie Anders, City Attorney	Michelle Wood, Finance Director

Invocation

Councilman McCorkle led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

With no changes to the agenda Mayor Hough entertained a motion to approve the May 24, 2021 Work Session agenda as presented. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Appointment of Council Liaison to the GBA Subcommittee BOOMA
2. Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 2021 Council Meeting

Councilman McCorkle made a motion to approve the consent agenda.
Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor.
Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes (Motion carried)

AGENDA

1. Discussion of the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget and Fee Schedule

Ms. Wood presented the 2021-2022 proposed budget. She reviewed the budget process and advised that Mount Holly still has the lowest water and sewer rates in Gaston County even after the increase. in the county for water and sewer after increase. Ms. Wood advised that revenue projections were made on the conservative side. Councilman Meadows asked for the information as to how the projections were made. Ms. Wood advised that the budget was balanced with no increase in the tax rate and includes at 2.6% CIP increase. Councilman Meadows asked staff to look into a merit increase system and do a study on longevity pay to consider as a part of next year's budget. He advised that this will be done to benefit employees and not take anything away.

i. Discussion of HR Salary Study

Ms. Rayburn explained that she collected the data for the salary study from the NC League of Municipalities. She advised that the League does an extensive salary study each year that uses comparisons with similar populations and using surrounding areas. Ms. Rayburn explained compression issues and further explained how the pay scale has not been updated since 2016. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker and Councilman Meadows had further questions and suggestions that could be helpful implementing the salary study. They agreed to meet with staff and discuss their ideas and have Ms. Rayburn further explain the study.

i. Discussion of Health Insurance

Ms. Rayburn advised that there was and 18% increase in health care benefits for the upcoming year. She advised that the intent was to go with a self-funded policy but due to circumstances the City is proposing to go with a level funding policy. She commented that it looks very similar to what employees currently have. Councilman Meadows advised that he would like the employees' benefits package to look more like a cafeteria plan and allow employees to pick and choose the coverages they want. He asked staff to study this option for next year. Ms. Wood advised that we are currently moving toward an automated payroll system.

2. Discussion of Powell Bill Funds

Ms. Wood and Mr. DuPont came before the Council to make them aware that Powell Bill Funds from the state no longer cover the costs of keeping the roads up in Mount Holly. They presented 2 options to get the road maintenance schedule back on track. 1st is to take money from the fund balance and the 2nd is to borrow the funds. Staff recommends moving forward with one of these options in next year's budget. It was the consensus of Council to revisit this topic in the future and in the meantime explore other revenue options because Powell Bill funds are not enough.

3. Update on the Strategic Visioning Plan

Mr. Beal reviewed the 2003 Visioning Plan. He commented that he City has made great strides in implementing the plan and has been able to create good first impressions of Mount Holly. He advised that 21 goals were accomplished in the "COVID" year. The short-term next steps are the North Main Gateway, Dutchman's Creek Greenway and creating the investment of a Woods and Waters District. The Mayor advised that we need to keep pushing through to meet all our goals.

4. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(3 and 5)

Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker made the motion to enter into closed session at 7:57 pm. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes (Motion carried)

Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to come out of closed session and back into regular session at 8:34 pm. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes (Motion carried)

Councilman David Moore made a motion to accept the offer of \$330,000 for the property located at the intersection of Highway 273 and Beatty Road and move forward as soon as possible with the upset bid process. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes (Motion carried)

Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to adjourn the May 24, 2021 Council Work Session Meeting. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. Councilman Moore attended virtually and voted yes (Motion carried)

The time was 8:36 p.m.