

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hough called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Craig led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Hough welcomed Mr. Jackson back as the interim manager. With no changes to the agenda, Councilman Moore made the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Budget Amendment
 - Mold issues in the Fire Department—Maintenance
2. Call for a public hearing for review and recommendation to City Council, to consider an application, submitted by True Homes, for a proposed rezoning of an 89.5-acre tract of land being Tax Parcel #s: 178060, 309482, 309483, 309484, 309462, 309461, 309460, 309459, 309458, 309457, 309456, 309455, 309454, 309453, 309452, 309481, 309480, 309479, 309478, 309477, 309476, 309475, 309474, 309473, & 309472 from Conditional District Single Family, approved on May 13, 2019, to Amended Conditional District Single Family.
3. Approval of minutes from the May 8, 2023 Council Meeting
4. Approval of the minutes from the May 8, 2023 Closed Session

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

AGENDA

1. Discussion of the Proposed 2023/2024 Budget and Fee Schedule

Mrs. Wood gave an overview of the budget process. She advised that originally staff compiled a budget at the 39-cent tax rate. After the last meeting Council agreed to purchase 2 fire trucks and hire 12 additional fire fighters. Therefore, Council directed staff to move forward with a proposed tax rate at 40.5-cents. Mrs. Wood advised that the proposed budget was delivered to Council on May 9th. Mrs. Wood entertained questions and comments from Council. Councilman Meadows commented that it is nice to see the merit program going into effect this fiscal year. He advised that next year he would like to see staff look into a cafeteria plan for employee benefits and also advised that if re-elected he will propose once again looking into the longevity benefit.

2. Discussion of a Downtown Social District

Mayor Hough advised that this discussion is being brought back to Council because at the first downtown event the Foundation did not have things in order to serve beer and wine. Thankfully the MHAA stepped in and filled the spot. He advised that if we had a designated social district and the downtown businesses could have sold alcohol then this would not have been a problem. Chief Reagan explained that since that last discussion regarding social districts a few local municipalities have approved social district areas. He advised that the main change has been that non-profits can now be located and sell alcohol inside the social district area. Chief Reagan advised that with the changes to the social district requirements the Police Department is making plans for updated ABC training for the non-profits. There were concerns from Council in regard to the expense to the business inside the social district and the liability to the businesses. Councilwoman Shoemaker suggested that Chief Reagan attend the next BOOMA meeting and make a presentation to get feedback from the businesses.

3. Update on the Strategic Visioning Plan

Mr. Beal gave a brief history on the process of the 2019 Visioning Plan Update. He advised that staff is currently working towards the goals of the 2019 updated plan. He advised that staff is working on a blue way study and also working with McAdams on a greenway connector to Muddy River Distillery. A parking lot item from the Council Retreat was to check into rezoning some properties on Catawba Avenue. Mr. Beal advised that East Catawba residential is addressed in the 2019 plan update. Mayor Hough advised that parking continues to be a problem for downtown and staff needs to continue looking for creative ways to expand parking.

4. Discussion of the Stanley Water Agreement

Mrs. Anders gave a brief history of the Stanley Water Agreement. She then gave an overview of the new agreement. She advised that she has been working with staff on the agreement and going back and forth with the attorney from Stanley. She advised that Stanley will no longer be looking at a floating rate. Ms. Anders is hopeful that a final agreement will be ready for approval at the June Council Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Councilman Craig made the motion to enter into Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(4 and 6) at 7:21 pm. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to come out of closed session and back into regular session at 8:04 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Mayor Hough advised that no action was 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 May 22, 2022 Council Work Session Meeting. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.