# CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
# MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
**Monday, May 11, 2009**
**Council Chambers**
**7:00 pm**

**Call to Order**
Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

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| Mayor Robert Whitt | Eric Davis, City Manager |
| Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore | Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager |
| Councilman Jerry Bishop | Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager |
| Councilman Frank McLean | James Friday, Director of Utilities |
| Councilman Bennie Brookshire | Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief |
| Councilman Perry Toomey | David Belk, Chief of Police |
| Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare | Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director |

Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office

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**Call to Order by Mayor Whitt**

Mayor Whitt called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Invocation**

Reverend Kendall Cameron pastor of the First Baptist Church led the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Boy Scout Troop 59 of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Set Agenda**

Mayor Whitt asked for any changes to the agenda. With no changes to the agenda Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Reappoint Kathy Drum to ABC Board
2. Approval of Gaston County Solid Waste management Plan Update

Councilman McLean made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

**MINUTES**

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Jerry Miller Presentation *Mayor Whitt*

Mayor Whitt and the City Council presented a resolution to the family of Mr. Miller for his time that he served the City as a member of the Planning Commission.

2. Mount Holly Community Development Foundation

Ms. Danzi reported that the Foundation has been working with downtown revitalization. She touched on the upcoming function that the Mount Holly Community Foundation is sponsoring. Mayor Whitt thanked the Foundation for all the work they do for the betterment of the Community.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit**

Paul Knight
140 W Glendale Ave
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Knight commented that he brought his dog to Springfest on a leash. He advised that he was approached by a Police Officer and told that the dog was not allowed at the festival. He followed all the rules of the City Code and was still asked to leave the activities.

Carol Featherston
Pierce Ave
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Featherston came before Council to represent Mount Hollydays. She advised that the group is planning their second Masquerade Ball. She asked that the City Council Co-Sponsor the event and allow Mount Hollydays to use the Grand Hall for the event.

Carol Rosenthal
116 Riverdell Court
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Rosenthal invited all Council members to come sit in her front porch during the next big rain see the flooding that takes place on her street.

Henry Massey
307 Dogwood
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Massey thanked the Beatification Committee for their efforts of keeping the community beautiful but shared his concerns regarding the property located at the intersection of Highway 273 and Highway 27. He advised that this is one of the main gateways to the City and needs to look attractive as possible.

Susan Loque
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Loque shared her concerns regarding the lack ambulance service within the City. She advised that she had a medical emergency and the Fire Department responded and was extremely professional but is greatly concerned that the City Council does not feel that the City needs this service.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 Annual Budget

Mayor Whitt opened the public hearing. Mr. Davis presented the fiscal year 2009-2010 annual budget. He reviewed the budget highlights and added that the proposed tax rate is to remain unchanged at $0.53. There is no cost of living raises included in the budget as well as a reduction in the employees health care benefits. He added that there is a recycling program included in the budget.

Karen Heroy
Dogwood Ave
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Heroy spoke to the Council during the Public Hearing in support of the City wide recycling program. She advised that the Foundation is highly supportive of the proposed program.

With no other comments, Mayor Whitt closed the public hearing

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of waste treatment plant cost estimates

Mr. Davis advised that Council directed Staff and Mr. Cooke to bring forward a couple of engineering firms that could help the City with the cost estimates for the waste treatment plant. Mr. Davis is recommending that the City put out requests for proposals from engineering firms then bring a recommendation back to Council. It was the consensus of Council that they would like for Staff to bring in a couple of engineering firms to talk with Council and at that time a decision from Council will be made.

2. Discussion of Grand Hall Rental Policy

Mayor Whitt advised that he feels there should be some adjustments to the Grand Hall rental policy in regard to the price of the rental as well as the issue of the City co-sponsoring events. Councilwoman Breyare suggested that the entire Council work on revising the policy versus going back to committee. Staff was directed to call a meeting of the Grand Hall committee within the next ten (10) days and let the Council know as well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approve application for economic recovery funds

Mr. Friday explained that he is before Council to ask approval of a resolution to apply for stimulus funding for a sewer lining project. He advised that 50% of the project will be principal forgiven and the remaining 50% will be paid back at 0% interest. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Approve contract for website design

Mr. Guffey presented the request for proposals to redesign the City website. He made a recommendation that the City award the bid to CC Communications. After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to stay with Gaston Technical Support for the website design.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis introduced Ashley Martin. He advised that she is an intern from Chapel Hill and will be here through the summer.

**CLOSED SESSION**

1. Closed Session *(pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3)&(5))*

At this time, Councilman McLean made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. The time was 8:30 p.m.

Council returned to open session on a motion made by Councilman Bishop and seconded by Councilman McLean. All Council Members voted in favor. Mayor Whitt advised that there was no action taken during closed session.

**ADJOURN**

With no additional items for discussion, Councilman Bishop made a motion to adjourn the May 11, 2009 Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The May 11, 2009 Council meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.