

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The regular meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor McLean. The following were present:

Mayor Frank McLean

Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Black

Councilman Michael Helms

Councilwoman Phyllis Harris

Adm. Services Officer Jamie Guffey

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols

Planning & Zoning Dir. Danny Jackson

City Attorney Kemp Michael

Councilman Brian Hough

Police Chief Davis

Councilwoman Pat Hubbard

Fire Chief Ekiatis

(Councilman Hope arrived later.)

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Rev. Joe Harding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout Leader Rick Connell shared a thought for the day.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved upon motion by Councilman Helms seconded by Councilwoman Harris, with addition of New Business #7 to add a maintenance position, with all in favor.

MINUTES

Councilman Black **MOVED** to approve the minutes of March 5 and 12, 2001, as written, seconded by Councilman Hough, with all in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

PR#1 Mrs. Newhart to Discuss Water Leak

Not present.

PR#2 Recognition of New Firefighters with Completed EMT Training

Chief Ekiatis presented the firefighters who have completed EMT Training, namely, David Stevens, Kyle Clingerman, Travis Collier, Roger Richards, Chris Gates, Mark Almond, Chip Walker, and Jake Beatty. It takes 130 hours for EMT training plus 24 hours for defibrillation training. All passed on their first test. He stated he is very proud of these men.

PR#3 Emergency 911 Communications

Chief Davis said that the FCC has required a change in frequency that will require us to buy new radios. Our system is over 10 years old, and we would like to upgrade it. Our

console only allows one person; the new one will allow two. Part of this would have to be paid out of city general funds, because only part of it would be paid by the 911 money. City Manager Kraus said that the equipment would not arrive until next fiscal year, and so would be paid out of next year's budget, but we need to award the bid now to order it.

City Manager Kraus said that he has not received a definite answer from Gaston County about the fire and rescue dispatch. It would be \$28,000/year for 5 years if we join the County system, it would be maintained by the County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UFB#1 To Reconsider Supplemental Agreement for Stanley Interconnect

City Manager Kraus stated that the Town Board of Stanley has reviewed the supplemental agreement for the Stanley Interconnect prepared by Mount Holly, and they have proposed that Stanley would pay up to 25% of the total cost of the future plant expansion. Staff stated that it is impossible to state Stanley's future capacity needs. The Mount Holly proposal provided 700,000 gallons per day provided that Stanley agree to pay for a like amount in our future plant expansion.

Motion: Councilwoman Harris moved to reject their proposal and resubmit our proposal, seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

NB#1 Approval of Annual Plan Submission of Housing Authority

As required by federal regulations, Mount Holly will submit its annual plan for the Housing Authority.

Motion: Councilman Helms **MOVED** to approve the plan as submitted, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

NB#2 To Approve Municipal Ordinance on Speed Zone as Required by NC DOT

City Manager Kraus stated that DOT has required this ordinance to complete its records on Main Street since it became SR 2198 when the bypass was completed. This does not change the speed limit which is already 20 mph.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to adopt the ordinance as written, seconded by Councilman Hubbard.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NB#3 Acceptance of Donation for Volunteer Firefighters and Supplemental Appropriation of Funds

The volunteer firefighters have donated \$1,000 toward the purchase of two new defibrillators to be placed on a fire engine at each fire station.

Motion: Councilman Black **MOVED** to accept the donation with the City's thanks and to appropriate the funds for the defibrillators, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NB#4 To Authorize Fire Department to Apply for Fire Act Grant

Chief Ekiatis said there are grant monies available for local fire departments, and you can apply for two areas out of six choices. He wants to apply for \$78,000, which would have a 10% match of local money, to purchase 58 full sets of turnout gear. He is also interested in a compressed air foam truck grant for \$190,000, also requiring a 10% local match. The grants would be awarded by September. City Kraus said we have some money in the budget for turnout gear and so we would use that for the city match funds if we got that grant. We would not budget the \$19,000 for the truck, but would take that from contingency if we get the grant for that.

Motion: Councilman Black **MOVED** to authorize the application for two Fire Act grants by the Fire Department, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

NB#5 To Approve Supplemental Appropriation to Police Dept.

Chief Davis stated that all the weapons in the department are patrol weapons and he would like to purchase weapons for undercover officers. The money would come from drug forfeiture money.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to approve the budget amendment for the purchase of weapons for undercover officers, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NB#6 To Call for Public Hearing for Rezoning on Beatty Drive from R-12 to B-3

City Manager Kraus stated that Mrs. Anita Thomas has applied for rezoning of 316 Beatty Drive from R-12 to B-3. The Planning Commission recommended that a public hearing be held.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to call for public hearing on a rezoning request for 316 Beatty Drive from R-12 to B-3 to be held at the April 14, 2001 meeting, seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

NB#7 To Establish Maintenance Position

City Manager Kraus feels that this is critical to keeping the city properties in good working order. We have put money in the new budget for this matter. Councilman Black asked who would the person report to? That would be Jamie Guffey. Councilman Helms asked if there is a job description for that? Mr. Kraus said there are other cities that have this position and he would prepare a job description.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to establish a new position for a public facilities maintenance worker, seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

Councilman Black asked what the pay grade would be; Mr. Guffey said 18 or 19.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment.

Lou Barron, 221 Ferstl Avenue. He returned to Council to report on the dog situation with his neighbor; he said it is the same but some new things he wanted them to be aware. He reported: "Another dogfight broke out in the yard, and the wife tried to help, but they had to put one dog to sleep. We called animal control, and they have investigated this matter. They said they are going to put the dogs in kennels. But that will not alleviate the noise and smell. The officer also said he wrote them a citation. I gave him the logs that I had kept. He took them and said it would go to the magistrate. We told him we would testify. Yesterday there was another dog fight, and shortly after that a Mt. Holly police officer came to our house and said that the people had called the police dept. and issued a complaint that we were harassing them by looking at them all the time. Our house has windows on their side of our house so we have no choice".

Chief Ekiatis said his code enforcement officer has tried to contact them, and he has talked to the neighbors, and he believes that it is a neighbor dispute, and not a code enforcement issue.

Jean Barron spoke next. "We are law-abiding taxpayers. Please explain why my neighbor has the right to have 14 fully-grown dogs, while I cannot even sit on my porch and eat or swing in my yard because of the noise and smell. I believe in justice and there must be something that can be done to stop this."

ROUND TABLE

Councilman Helms said we need "no parking" signs on Hwy. 16.

Councilman Black recalled that Mike Johnson asked for a letter to be sent on his behalf; did we do that? Mr. Kraus said yes.

Councilman Black also noted in the minutes of the planning commission meeting from last week there are openings on their board, but they made no recommendations. They stated that they want to leave the roster the same as it is. I feel the positions should be filled. Council agreed.

Councilman Black asked the City Manager to please have someone from DOT come to tell us what to expect from the bridge construction project so we can plan for our part after they finish.

Councilman Black said that Hwy. 27 between Main Street and the police station is getting in really bad condition; he knows this is a state road. City Manager Kraus said they have called DOT, but he will call them more often.

Councilman Hough asked that in the next memo packet he would like to get an update on the land development plan and the planning ordinances we asked for.

Councilman Hough asked if we should look at a new name for the park at Mountain Island? Councilwoman Harris said she will bring it up at a Recreation Committee meeting.

Councilman Hough asked if we can use money for underground utilities to get a consultant to recommend revitalization plan. Councilman Hope said he is not sold on that yet, he does not want to spend money to plan if it is not really going to be done since the money becomes wasted. He said we need to decide the city's level of involvement first.

Councilman Hough commented on a letter received from Mr. Pearson since they did not get the setbacks on the lots they wanted for that new development. He has already sold lots to the builder, Ryan Homes. They want to be able to build larger homes at a larger sales price. Jim Hope said he does not have a problem with it and he sees it all the time. Councilwoman Hubbard said from her point of view, we want bigger houses, and if this is the only way to get that, perhaps we should consider it. Mr. Kraus said this would be a revision to the conditional use permit, and would require a public hearing.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to hold a public hearing to consider a change in the conditional use permit for Dutchman Meadows, seconded by Councilman Hope.

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

City Manager Kraus stated that May 23rd is Annual Town Day being held in Raleigh; he asked the Council to please let him know who wants to go.

City Manager Kraus said that in Concord a regional meeting will be held on April 26th for the League of Municipalities.

City Manager Kraus said we sent a letter to A&E to confirm acceptance of the easement at the community center they are giving the city.

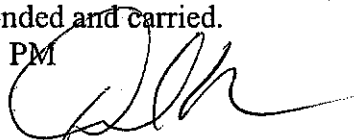
Mayor McLean announced that the churches are sponsoring local recognition of National Day of Prayer on May 3rd at 12 noon in the courtyard.

City Manager Kraus told the Council that FOX TV wants to run a Mt. Holly police video on one of its shows.

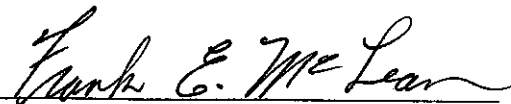
ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried.

8:10 PM



Clerk



Mayor