Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
April 3, 2001

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR
The work session 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
Councilman Jim Hope
Councilman Bryan Hough
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
City Attorney Kemp Michael

City Manager David Kraus
Administrative Services Officer Jamie Guffey
Deputy Public Works Director Jeff Fritts
Planning & Zoning Director Danny Jackson
Fire Chief John Ekiatis
Parks & Recreation Director Zip Stowe
Police Chief Ricky Davis

The Invocation was lead by Mayor McLean.

Rick Judson with the Dutchman's Meadow subdivision spoke to Council about the possibility of decreasing the side setback from 8 feet to 6 feet for the subdivision. Mr. Judson stated that the customer market for that area is requesting for bigger houses and the change in setback would allow for those bigger houses. This request will not change the number of lots, the only change will be the building pad size. He also stated that this request is for the same side setbacks that is currently in the Riverfront Subdivision.

Councilwoman Hubbard asked what the difference would be in the square footage of the homes. Mr. Judson stated the square footage would go from approximately 1800 square feet to 2000 square feet.

City Manager Kraus stated that for the change to take place, Council would have to call for a public hearing.

Item # 1 on the Agenda – Draft Sedimentation and Erosion Ordinance.

Mike McLaurin from CCOG spoke to Council about the process of drafting a local soil and erosion ordinance. This would allow the city to control erosion ourselves.

Councilman Hough asked who would be responsible for enforcement. City Manager Kraus stated that the city would need to create a new position. Mr. McLaurin stated that the position may need to a professional engineer who can inspect and approve plans and then we may need to hire a field inspector to do most of the enforcement work.

Councilman Hope stated that until this is done we need to keep on top of the state to make sure they are doing all that they can to help the problem. The issue was then tabled to the May 8th work session.

Item #2 on the Agenda – Police Canine Program.

Chief Davis told Council of the chance to start a canine program to aid the investigations unit. The dog had been purchased by one of our police officers, Officer Rollins, who would allow the City to use the dog. Sgt. Michael Reese stated that the dog would receive free training from Cumberland County and would cost approximately $1,500 to $2,000 a year to maintain. Sgt. Reese also stated that this cost could be offset by fundraisers by school groups and other civic organizations.

Councilman Hough **MOVED** that the Police Department be allowed to start a canine program. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hubbard and was approved by all.

Item #3 on the Agenda – Discussion of Proposed Changes to Telephones.

Administrative Services Officer Guffey told Council that the City was looking into the possibility of switching Local phone service from Southern Bell to Concord Telephone. This switch would be done as a cost cutting measure and will be discussed more in the future.

Item #4 on the Agenda – Discussion of Outsourcing Information Technology.

Administrative Services Officer Guffey told Council that the City was also looking into the possibility of outsourcing our information technology as a way to save money. The company that is being looked at is IReady World and they currently have quoted a price of $93,000 a year to maintain our computers and to provide new computers to the city. Other alternatives are also being looked at to help cut cost.

Item #5 on the Agenda – Discussion on Public Facilities Maintenanceg Crew.

City Manager Kraus told Council about creation of a new position in the City that would be responsible for the maintenance of all city property. This position would be filled with a current employee through a reorganization. He also stated that if Council did not have a problem with the creation of this position it would be on the consent agenda for Monday.

Item #6 on the Agenda – Results of the Planning Survey.

City Manger Kraus stated that the results had just come back and that he had not had time to go through the results and that he would have the results for the next meeting. The item was tabled.

Item #7 on the Agenda – Administrative Uniforms.

City Manager Kraus stated that the City would be ordering golf style shirts for members of the City Hall staff. He stated that it might be a good idea to get a shirt for the members

of Council so that they could wear them to meetings and other functions. He stated that if any member of Council would like a shirt to see him so that he could order them all together.

Item # 8 on the Agenda – Draft Agenda Items.

New Business # 5 – Call for Public Hearing to Amend the Conditional Use for Dutchman's Meadows.

Councilman Hough asked if the amendment that they were asking for was not the same condition that they originally asked for and were told no. If they want bigger houses, make the lots bigger.

Round Table.

Mayor McLean asked if anyone knew when the new Post Office would be open.

Councilman Hough asked for an update on the purchase of the building for the public works facility. He also asked for an update of the signal at the crossing at the Mount Holly Restaurant.

Councilman Helms **MOVED** that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris and passed with no objections at 8:56 pm.

_____ ******** Frank E. McLean

City Clerk Mayor