

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, March 26, 2012
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, City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	David Belk, Police Chief
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman Perry Toomey	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman J. Jason Gowen	Mike Santmire, Director of Streets and Solid Waste
Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare	Ed Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation
Attorney Kemp Michael	Greg Beal, Director of Planning and Development

Invocation

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

Set the Agenda

Mayor Hough asked for any changes to the agenda. With none stated Councilman Gowen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. The motion passed.

1. Discussion of Charter School

The Council reviewed the options that have been proposed regarding the Charter School. There was discussion regarding denying the annexation aspect but extending them water and sewer and the impact it would have on our system as it is currently. There was also discussion on what affect this option would have on the Fire and Police Departments. Without annexing the property, it would be out of the City's jurisdiction therefore would not cause any public safety related issues for the City. Councilman Bishop made the motion to deny the annexation of the Mountain Island Charter School but extend utility services to them. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. Councilmen Bishop and Toomey, Councilwoman Breyare and Mayor Pro Tem Moore voted in favor. Councilman Hope and Gowen voted against. Motion carried (4-2)

Discussion of the Linear Park Additions with Bell Construction

Mr. Beal presented additions to the second phase of the Linear Park Project. Additions included sidewalks with brick accents, additional street lighting and bump outs. He advised that it is important to move forward with approval of these additions before Bell Construction moves on to another job. Mr. Beal further advised that the only hold up is the cost associated with the

mast arms and Duke Energy. Councilman Gowen made the motion to approve the additions that Mr. Beal presented and the additions be added to Bell Constructions contract with the understanding that the final decision regarding the lighting come back before Council at a later date. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

2. Discussion of the Fitness Center

Mr. Smith reviewed the condition of the equipment at the Fitness Center and gave the Council some options regarding the future of the Center. He advised that he is looking for direction from Council as to how to proceed. Mayor Hough pointed out that there are only thirteen (13) paid members of the fitness center. It was the consensus of Council to look into the issue during the budget process but in the mean time the broken equipment should be moved out.

3. Discussion of Preliminary Engineering for the Waste Treatment Plant

Mr. Friday came before Council to request permission to enter into an agreement with HDR Engineering for the preliminary engineering phase for the waste treatment project. Mr. Friday explained that Dave Parker, who has done work for the City in the past, is now employed with this firm. There was discussion regarding the cost and scope of work. Council requested that Mr. Parker come to the next meeting.

4. Discussion of Requests for Special Events

a. Autumn on Main

b. Wesley Chapel Holiness Church Community Outreach Block Party

Mr. Jackson made a recommendation to Council that both of these events be placed on the consent agenda at the April meeting for approval. He advised that both need Council approval due to the request for closing the road. Council agreed.

5. Discussion of 2012-2013 Budget Requests

Mr. Guffey reported that tonight staff looking for direction from Council to help staff prepare a balanced budget. He advised that a debt schedule was provided to Council with their packet information. Mr. Guffey explained that 65% of the budget is personnel related costs and that a 3% COLA has been submitted and no merit increase. Councilman Gowen commented that he disagrees with across the board raises. He had rather see performance raises. Mayor Hough agreed but advised that in the past years Council feels the City does not have a fair evaluation process. The Mayor stressed that he would like to see a new Streets Department included in the budget. Councilman Toomey added that he would like the City to look at the tax rate. Councilwoman Breyare asked for a copy of employees salaries. Mr. Guffey added that staff will hold departmental meetings before the next budget meeting and come back to Council in April with firm numbers.

At this time, Mayor Hough asked the Council for round table comments.

Councilwoman Breyare commented that she would like to see speed bumps in the park.

Councilman Gowen commented that the people in his neighborhood would like to see the road posted with speed limit signs.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore commented that there needs to be a guard rail on Highway 27 where the fatality occurred last week.

Mr. Jackson asked for direction on the Confederate Soldiers request. After a brief discussion Council agreed that they would not grant nor withhold permission.

Mr. Jackson asked Council's pleasure regarding the truck traffic on Central Ave. Council agreed to move forward with the legalities of closing the road to truck traffic.

Mr. Jackson reported that he got a call from CSX and they plan on doing work on Main Street this weekend and closing the street.

Mayor Hough commented on Mr. Beal's new business card with the new logo.

Mayor Hough asked for staff to look into a way to block the site of the structures at the intersection of Highway 273 and Highway 27.

6. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gowen made the motion to adjourn the March 16, 2012 Council work session meeting. Councilman Hope seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.