CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL
Work Session
March 23, 2009
6:00 pm

Members present: Mayor Robert Whitt, Councilmen David Moore, Jerry Bishop, Bennie Brookshire, Frank McLean, Perry Toomey, and Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare.

Staff present: Eric Davis, City Manager, Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager, Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager, Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director, Chief Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief, and Chief David Belk, Chief of Police, James Friday, Utilities Director, Tina Pritchard, Parks and Recreation Director and Kemp Michael, City Attorney

Others present: Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michael's office

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

INVOCATION

Councilman McLean led the Council, staff members and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Whitt asked for any changes to the work session agenda. Council had no changes to the work session agenda.

Presentation of Customer Complaint Software

Mr. Davis introduced Willie Jester the representative that was present to talk with Council regarding software that is designed to track customer complaints. He advised that he first talked with Councilwoman Breyare at the League Conference regarding his software and she was very interested in the product. He further explained the software and how it works. Mr. Davis added that due to the number of the complaints the City receives, the software package could be very beneficial to the City. Mr. Jester discussed the price of the software with the Council. It was the consensus of Council to discuss the purchase of this software during the budget process.

Consideration and Approval of a Resolution in Support of Stimulus Funds for Public Housing

Mr. Jackson reported that Stimulus Funds in the amount of $93,000 has become available to be used toward Public Housing. He advised that the proposed resolution in support of the funding has an April 10th deadline. Therefore, to ensure the deadlines are met, Staff brought the item before Council at the work session meeting. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support of Stimulus Funds for Public Housing. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Annexation Procedures

Mayor Whitt advised that there seems to be some confusion regarding the process of annexation. He reminded Council that they recently adopted annexation procedures as part of the Strategic Visioning Plan. Mayor Whitt further advised that the annexation process begins with the petition of sufficiency. After Council has approved the petition, then the annexation agreement will come before Council and at that time is when Council is allowed to ask all of the pertinent questions. Mr. Davis added that Staff's goal is that the only projects approved by Council are those that will have a positive impact on the City. He further added that Staff is making sure that the City can provide our services as adequately as possible especially with the waste treatment situation that the City is currently facing.

Discussion of the Adequate Public Facilities (APFO)

Mr. Guffey explained that the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) if approved by Council be incorporated as part of the subdivision ordinance. He further explained that the APFO would set the levels of service that is needed as development occurs. It would be a way that future development would pay for the extra services needed. Mr. Davis added that sanitation is not included in the ordinance because it is very difficult to measure that level of service. Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked how the developer would pay for this. Mr. Guffey replied that Staff's recommendation would be one lump sum at the beginning of the project. Mayor Whitt advised that there is currently Legislation being proposed that would terminate the legality of this type ordinance. It as the consensus of Council to hold off on the Public Hearing and discuss this ordinance further at a special meeting.

Discussion of Special Activities Permit

Mr. Davis reported that the Special Activities Permit is something that staff has been working on to be better informed of the details of special events that take place within the City. He advised that this permit would detail the need for Police and Fire presence at these events as well as outline the needs from the Streets and Solid Waste Department. Council questioned the need for $1 million in liability coverage. Staff was directed to find out what other Towns do in regard to liability coverage and bring back to Council at a future date for further discussion.

Committee Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Moore advised that the first annual Arbor Day Celebration was a success.

Councilman Bishop reported that the Utility Committee met and was updated on construction of the Hewitt Street water tank.

Councilman Toomey asked if the City can stop paying the Second Baptist Church for the lay down yard. Mr. Michael advised that the City must honor the current contract.

Council Toomey reported that the Construction Committee needs to meet and discuss the changes to Tuck Park.

Mayor Whitt advised that he received a letter from Jane with Country Time Party Rentals and she has suggested in the letter that the price of the rental of the Grand Hall is to high. Council Bishop commented that she was the one that suggested the price of $2000 for renting the Grand Hall. Councilman Toomey suggested Council take a closer look at the Grand Hall rental policy at a future meeting.

Mr. Davis commented that the City of Gastonia is asking for someone to be appointed to attend a meeting regarding sales tax. Mayor Whitt appointed Mr. Davis and Mr. Brookshire to attend the meeting.

Mr. Davis reported that he received a letter from the postal service in regard to changing the addresses in Catawba Heights. He advised that the letter states that the postal service has conducted a survey of the citizens in Catawba Heights and the majority of the people are against the address change therefore the postal service will not be pursuing this issue any further. Councilwoman Breyare reported that she would like to see the results of the survey.

Mr. Davis reported that he spoke with representatives from the hospital and Medplex and they intend to file an appeal in regard to the denial of the proposed medical facility in Mount Holly.

Mr. Davis asked Councils opinion on the public comment stop light. Council agreed to leave it.

Mr. Beal commented on the property located on Highway 273 that is in violation of several City ordinances. He advised that the City has issued several stop work orders and he intends to get the Police Department to visit the property with him this week.

Closed Session ***(pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3)&(6))***

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Councilman Toomey made a motion to come out of closed session. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. Mayor Whitt advised that no action was taken during closed session.

Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bishop made the motion to adjourn the March 23, 2009 work session meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. ***(Motion carried)***

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.