CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting
March 13, 2003

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR
The special meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Black. The meeting was held at the Tuckaseege Community Center. The following were present:
Mayor Robert D. "Bobby" Black
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Hope
Councilman Michael Helms
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
Councilman Frank McLean
Councilman Bryan Hough
City Manager David Kraus
City Attorney Kemp Michael

INVOCATION
The invocation was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Hope.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The pledge was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Hope.

WELCOME
Mayor Black welcomed the citizens to this public meeting. He thanked Mr. Griffin and the Safety Patrol from Ida Rankin Elementary for their assistance this evening in welcoming our citizens. The Mayor read the rules for this meeting required for a hearing on bond referendums. (copy attached)

Mayor Black recognized the Committee of 150 who served on the citizen input meetings in January to form a vision for our city's future. After their work, an Executive Committee met several times to formulate recommendations for projects the city might undertake now and projects for later. Chairman Lee Beatty, Paul Abernathy, Steve Davis, Helen Jones, Michael Kahare, Tracy McDonald, Aaron Suttenfield, Carlton Broome, Daphne Barton, Dan Stutzman, and Scott Griffin were recognized for their hard work and extra effort. The Mayor also recognized in attendance a special guest, Jeff Wise, with the Whitewater US Association, and said that citizens might wish to speak with him after the meeting about the water park they have planned for a tract of land across the river from Mount Holly.

PRESENTATIONS

PR#1 To Discuss the Findings of The Vision Committee

Mayor Black introduced Lee Beatty, Chairman of the executive committee. Dr Beatty presented the long-range plans the committee has compiled for Mt. Holly. The focus is on:

1. Regional Position: We are Charlotte's last frontier, and with a ramp onto Highway 27 off of the new I-485 near Mount Holly, expansion is coming.
2. New Economy: The figures based on US Census 2000 show that employment changes have occurred, with 37% manufacturing and 63% service/retail; also, residential growth here is a factor, with 1200 new units since 1990, a 25% growth, in fact, 1,000 in the last three years.
3. Residential Profile: 22% moved here from other counties since 1995, bringing fresh perspective and new expectations.
4. Community Character: 11% live alone as opposed to 25% for the national average, so we are a community of families. The Catawba River is a great asset of Mt. Holly, with a new bridge on Highway 27, near Dutchman Creek and River Street Park. An emerging asset is the proposed Greenways & Trails, a corridor or strip of land reserved for recreational use. Another emerging asset is the Whitewater Park proposed across the river from Mt. Holly, with a potential of 300,000 visitors per year; if we captured 1/3 of those visitors spending $200 each, that would produce a large revenue for our economy.

Ron Morgan, with Urban Ventures, spoke next. He was hired by the City Council to facilitate the process of what was termed the Mt. Holly Change Strategy, a citizens input concept. On the first week, three groups of citizen volunteers met and went through introductions and presentations. They were asked to visualize the city of your dreams without concern for budget, and goals were formulated as a group. Groups were formed and they used maps to determine the primary goals. On week three, they used the dot voting system to choose projects that can be realistically done. He said this was the most productive and intense group he has seen in 25 years. The agreement was that we would really get something done to revitalize Mount Holly this time. He showed visuals of the citizens' votes on maps. He had aerials and did computer visuals to show how the concepts could look. Then, the floor was returned to Lee Beatty, who said that the Executive Committee of 12 volunteers from each of the three groups met next to set priorities, do-able quality projects, along with public works to attract private investment. They did not work on the town square, cineplex, the Central Avenue mill and Mt. Holly Mill proposals because they involve private property and investment. The executive committee focused on a Great Streets project, the Linear Park project from Main Street to the Catawba River, and the Gateway Park project on the river at the Highway 27 bridge.

The Driving Values of the committee is to strengthen our city image, promote a strong economy, and advance the quality of life. He showed pictures brought in by one of the committee members that had the most votes of all, such as a

streetscape with green, and a sit down restaurant that a family could go to. To promote a strong economy, they recommend a project that starts from the center of town and works outward, which will result in attracting private investors and businesses, and emphasize our assets. To advance the quality of life, the committee recommends emphasizing the river and our closeness to it. They recommend bike trails, and peaceful, serene places. The Great Streets project has first priority, and they recommended: 1. Connect neighborhoods to each other and to downtown, particularly working to include Catawba Heights in this connection; 2. Main street improvements; 3. Central Avenue improvements; and 4. Charlotte Avenue improvements. He showed more pictures of other towns that have done revitalization which have motivated our citizens to work on our improvements. He had pictures of the area as it is now, and computer images of what it can look like. He showed the area next to the bridge now, and what it could look like as an entrance to our city using photos from other places.

Dr. Beatty reported that the process has been productive. We established a dialogue, we have new perspectives and ideas, and a common goal with a bright future; we have established a partnership of private and public involvement that can be strengthened, and mutual respect for each other's ideas. In summary, our Mt. Holly Vision is to strengthen the city image, promote a strong economy, and advance the quality of life.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH#1 To Consider Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of $2,700,000 General Obligation Infrastructure Improvement Bonds of the City of Mount Holly, North Carolina

The City Clerk reported to the City Council that the bond orders entitled, **"BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $2,700,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA,"** and **"BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $2,300,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION PARKS AND RECREATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA,"** each of which was introduced at a meeting of the City Council on February 10, 2003, had been published on February 19 and 26, 2003, with notice that the City Council would hold a public hearing thereon on March 13, 2003, at 7:00 P. M. The City Clerk, David Kraus, also reported that there had been filed in his office a statement of debt complying with the provisions of the Local Government Bond Act, and such statement as filed showed the net indebtedness of the City to be one percent (1 %) of the assessed valuation of property in said City subject to taxation.

Council Member Hope moved that the City Council hold a public hearing first on the bond order authorizing the issuance of $2,700,000 of general obligation infrastructure improvement bonds of the City of Mount Holly, North Carolina. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris, and was unanimously adopted.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Black announced that the City Council would hear anyone who wished to be heard on the questions of the validity of the general obligation infrastructure improvement bond order, and the advisability of issuing the General Obligation Infrastructure Improvement Bonds. The City Clerk distributed the general obligation infrastructure improvement bond order and the published notice of hearing to all requesting them.

City Manager Kraus stated that this hearing is to discuss infrastructure improvements only, and he read the general description of the items to be covered by the bond. If authorized, this money can only be used for the things shown on the plan. Mr. Kraus presented a map showing the streets to be improved. The proposed sidewalks in Catawba Heights are estimated at a cost of $250,000; the remaining amount is estimated for improvements to Main Street from Catawba to just past First United Methodist Church, including streetscapes, underground utilities, curb and gutter, etc. The third item is improvements on Highway 27 from Highland to just past Main. After the bond election, if it passes, a budget will be formulated and will have to be met, and the design issues will be done then. Separately from the bond, the City plans to be fixing up the water and sewer lines at the same time, but the bond does not cover water and sewer lines as that will be handled separately. Mr. Kraus stated that Jamie Guffey had assisted him in preparing figures regarding paying back the bonds. There are two basic scenarios. One option is for $1.25 million every other year instead of all at once. This is the preferred plan by the Council, because it takes time to do the design work and negotiations for property or right of ways anyway, and the city probably cannot build the projects all at once. In the first year it would mean 3.16 cents on tax rate, goes up to 5.8 cents, 7.7 cents in 2010, and 9.4, in 2012, in terms of tax dollars, not necessarily meaning a tax increase. If you do the projects all at once, then the tax rate would be 12.62 cents the first year. Having said that, this is what it cost in tax dollars, but that does not mean there would be an equal raise in taxes; for instance, we got new revaluation figures from the county and that will generate additional tax revenues to the city. This would not mean one on top of the other either, there would be an ability by the city to pay the bonds. Also, we annexed the Riverbend Steam plant effective in 2014, but in the meantime, the company pays the city a fee every year until then that the council may use if they choose to do so to offset the payment on the bond, which would lower the cost figures presented here significantly. These numbers are actually for cost on both bonds being passed.

Mayor Black opened the floor to those who had signed up to speak on this issue, and reminded them of the 3-minute limit. He said those who signed up may pass if their question is answered before their turn.

Rodney Eppes, 107 S. Hawthorne Street. I want to comment that as one of the 150, I hope you can appreciate all the work put into this. I spent at least 20 hours just in meetings alone myself. A lot of people put in more time than I did. Keep an open mind on this, and remember that the textile industry has changed, and

even though we have long standing businesses, how long can they last? We need to turn our town around, bring people back, and get businesses here which will increase our tax base and help keep taxes from going up.

Suzanne Griffin, 110 Oakland Street. I was not born here but have lived here 30 years and plan to live here. I have felt change was in the air and I was very glad that citizens were included in this process and had input in how we would make Mt. Hollly a better place to live. I am very excited about the bonds and encourage the citizens to seriously consider it.

Cecelia Broome, 116 Patrick Lane. I grew up in Mt. Holly and enjoyed a thriving community and I miss that. I was excited when the Council wanted to take on this project and so many were willing to work on this. I am in favor of the bond referendum, anything that will help bring it back at least close to what we had; I only wish you could bring back our own high school.

Mike Johnson, Mount Holly business owner, thanked Council and Mr. Kraus. I asked Mr. Kraus' wife for forgiveness because he has been in so many meetings the last three months at least. Our family believes a lot in this town. We bought the old Woodlawn Mill and if we did not believe in this town would not have. There is a need for new water and sewer lines in Mount Holly downtown, the lines are very old. I would like to ask this question: Knowing that Land Design has provided expenditures, are they the general contractor? Will the city hire a general contractor? Mr. Kraus replied that Land Design came to our aid to give us cost estimates that we needed in order to put forth the bond referendums, but there has been no detail design or engineering performed yet. If the bonds are approved, we will take proposals from firms and Council will select which one will actually do the design work. After the design, then we can be our own general contractor or hire a general contractor, and that decision will be made at that time; but either way we will be hiring someone to oversee the projects and make sure we make the best use of the money.

J. C. Lewis, business owner at 104 S. Main, and Co-Chair of Mt. Holly Business Association. He asked how soon will the Business Association be furnished with details of the projects for its endorsements prior to the referendum date. Mr. Kraus said we will share the information we have with your group and anyone who is interested; they just need to come to city hall to get the information.

Laura Hutchins, owner of Little Barber Shop,121 E. Central, and 501 N. Hawthorne owner. I am glad to feel a pulse in Mount Holly again. I moved away because I was bored, and wanted to come back. Can our city government submit written answers to the questions presented from the Business Association tonight no later then 30 days from tonight?

Pam Friedl, I pass, my questions were answered.

Ron Woolwine, 705 Tuckaseege Road. To me a city has always been made up of people. A lot of people remember Purvey Summey if they are my age, I used to spend hours with him. In those years, we would sneak behind Charlie's and get chewing tobacco and get green sick. I think he would be happy with what is happening now. I want to ask, What safeguards are built in to this process to be sure the funds are not re-directed to other uses not on the referendum? Mr. Kraus said if you pass the bond, we can only spend the money on what you passed the money for. If the project comes in lower than the bond money, we don't have to sell all the bonds.

Todd Young, banker FUNB/Wachovia Bank at corner of Main and Central. I want to thank the Council for the process they have allowed the citizens to go through since January. The work that has been done has been very positive. Don't be fooled that everything has been rosy; there have been disagreements, but we worked together as a committee, and crafted something we feel everyone can be proud of. Out of the process we have also formed a business owners association. We are having a membership drive. If you feel your business will be affected, we urge you to participate. On the questions we want answered, those are the list of questions we submitted to the city in writing, and we will be sharing the answers to these questions with our business members.

Bill Gary, 106 Forest Hills Drive. Owner of William K. Gary & Assoc. at 124 S. Main Street. I want to thank the Council and Mr. Kraus for their fine work. This is not a vision of one man or woman or a small group, it is a vision of your friends and neighbors, your church members. If you have not been involved, become involved. Change is coming, and we cannot stop the change, but we can determine how that change will be implemented. Your neighbors have worked hard to come up with a vision so we will have a better place to live, play, work, and worship. I encourage you to vote in favor of the bonds. When we first set out to put a man on the moon, we sent them out but had to make course corrections along the way. We have shown we have trust in the Council and the Committee, so give them the benefit of the doubt. I believe they will do what is in our best interest and if they don't, we have a remedy for that.

David Moore, David's Detailing, corner of S. Main and E. Glendale. Thank you, Council, for this opportunity. I hope everyone will get all your friends to go out and vote or do not complain. I want to ask, Have the best suggestions been explored to avoid waste of money? Why are we cutting off the project on Main Street at Catawba? Why not go to Glendale. I realize money is involved. Mr. Kraus said the Council's original desire was to have the project on Main Street from Glendale to Dutchmans Creek, and from First Street, but that was with $10 million in bonds. The Council did not feel the city could afford $10 million and scaled it back to $5 million total bonds. This meant the projects were scaled back. That does not mean that we cannot finance future improvements when these projects are accomplished. Mr. Kraus stated that he believes that the

have done surveys among their customers. Thank you, Council, for letting us have this process.

Russell Graham. It is 2003, we have alcohol sales all around us. Let's get out of the stone age. People are responsible. Kids learn about it in school. Let's move forward and make things happen here in Mt. Holly. I can't see people walking down the street with it, but what's wrong with having a beer with dinner?

Todd Young. I was asked to speak. First of all, last Saturday, I took my 79 year old mom to dinner in another town, and half the people in the dining room were from Mt. Holly. Only 1/3 had alcohol on the table. We are not talking about drunks running around. The council has to put their personal feelings aside to let us have a choice. We are not talking about the issue of hell or heaven if I have a drink. I am against drunk driving. But we let people have a choice. I live here, and I would like to be able to choose to have a drink with my dinner here in Mt. Holly.

Mayor Black, I have been given a petition with 105 signatures opposing the sale of alcoholic beverages in Mt. Holly, which has been submitted for the record. Councilwoman Hubbard asked, Was that against a referendum or against the sale of alcoholic beverages? Mayor Black read the petition statement, which said "in opposition to the sale of alcoholic beverages in the City".

Councilman Hough stated that this is a tough issue, for me and for all of us. We go to eat at Chili's, Haydens, Harpers, La Fuentes. They all serve alcoholic beverages even though my choice might be different, I enjoy eating there. I go to church here, even teach Sunday school. Does it make me immoral if I say we should let people vote on this? No. We have a president that is working to defend our freedoms. I have heard all of you speak and have been amazed. Do I feel democracy works? Yes. Do I feel a majority of our citizens are God-fearing? Yes. Do I feel citizens should have a vote to decide this issue? Yes. I feel I have to let the citizens speak.

Councilwoman Harris spoke next. We are all struggling with this. If we call for a referendum, it does not mean we are saying what we personally want, it means the citizens have a choice and will say what they want by voting.

Councilman Helms stated, I am from a Southern Baptist background, and this is tough. I believe all three of these issues are bound together, and we have all talked about our taxes going up. Most of our tax revenues are residential, and to get that to change to more revenue coming from business and industry to try to hold down taxes, we will have to move forward. I was elected to represent everyone in this city, and we need to let the public decide an issue this important.

Councilwoman Hubbard stated, I was asked if we would have a referendum on alcohol. I said yes, I hope so, because I think this issue is too big for six people

problem comes here; do you have a plan for the $25 for every dollar spent that we will need to fix things later?

Brian Richardson, BBQ Depot. Do I want to serve alcohol? No. Will I? Yes. I get two or three people a day ask for a beer with their BBQ. They don't come back, they go somewhere else. The people who have problems with alcohol are already here. Do I drink? Occasionally. Do I get drunk? No. That does not make me an alcoholic. I want to ask the Council, What do you plan to do to restrict private clubs selling alcohol? The City can control how alcohol is and sold, we can prevent having bars on every corner, and still be able to have a beer with a meal.

Kathryn Church, Church Irrigation, W. Central Avenue. We are Mt. Holly Business Association members. I think you have come up with really neat ideas. Our association is a non-profit organization. She also mentioned to the citizens present that Hazel Burch is in need of funds for scholarships for the center in Catawba Heights for needy children. She asked the Council: How will you distribute this information we received tonight to the general public? Mayor Black said the referendums and ABC election must be published in the newspaper.

Bob Suttenfield, 157 Oakland Street. I am in support of this referendum. In today's real time world, we will not make these improvement projects work successfully without support for all of them including this one. Over the past three weeks, I have made over 70 phone survey calls. One night I talked with an elderly woman who said she is on a fixed income, and was raised in a strict Protestant religion. I asked her the questions that will be on the referendums, and she paused, and then said I guess we cannot have one without the other, and so she said yes. She was able to see the big picture. Other communities have allowed this without major incident. This should be a personal issue, and up to individuals to be able to choose. That is what this is about, allowing individuals to choose.

Michele Lennon, 209 Tuckaseege Road. I was raised in a small town in New York that makes this feel like home. I chose this town because it did not sell alcohol. I manage the Eckerds here. Is the revenue worth the mess it will cause? I already clean up a lot. We should separate this issue, and I would vote to allow on-site sales and say no to off-site sales.

Mike Johnson. The Mt. Holly Business Association has over 50 members. I served on committees for the governor in the past, and have enjoyed this process much more than any of that. This is an issue we have discussed many times. They voted almost unanimously that this go to the voters so the public will choose whether or not they want this allowed in our city. That way the people have spoken. The members of our association have said they don't want bars and such as that, but that alcoholic beverages be allowed to be sold. I don't drink myself, but I feel the citizens should have the say. The business owners

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to adopt Res. 03-13-03C setting special bond referendum for June 3 as read (copy attached), seconded by Councilwoman Hubbard.
Vote: Unanimous. CARRIED.

Mayor Black declared recess for ten minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UFB#1 Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt a Resolution Calling for An ABC Election Possibly Including the On-Premises and Off-Premises Sale of Malt Beverage and Unfortified Wine, to Permit the Operation of ABC Stores, and to Permit the Sales of Mixed Beverages

Mayor Black opened the floor to citizens who had signed up to speak on this matter.

Rodney Eppes, Hawthorne Ave. I know some of you have your mind made up. I am a Christian, and understand what is in the Bible. Keep an open mind and think about things. People who do drink go over to Charlotte or somewhere else, that is their privilege and their right. There have been businesses here who said they would like to sell alcoholic beverages. I don't like censorship, and I feel they should have a choice. Another example is what television channels people choose; it may not be what I or you would choose, but they have the right to do so. What difference does it make where they buy it? If you think it is not in Mount Holly, you can go anywhere and pick up the bottles everywhere in town. I know money is not the answer, but I think citizens have the right to vote on it. It does not affect you if you don't drink, it only affects those that buy the product themselves.

Jerry Stanfield, pastor, and member of ministerial association. President Bush is a great leader, with moral character, and we elected him to do a job for us, and he is doing a fine job. We elected you the Council as leaders of our community, and with a responsibility to protect us from danger. Just because it is around us does not mean we have to have it here in our city. Stand up for what is right, do what know is right in Mount Holly. I am a pastor, I believe it is not good for our town, that there are ways to raise revenue without alcohol. For example, Cracker Barrel, and other restaurants, show that you do not have to have alcohol to be successful. Statistics how can impact our community. A Gallup Poll showed that wherever there has ever been trouble, 75% of the criminal cases heard resulted from alcohol abuse. 51% of teenagers today have used alcohol by eighth grade; more than 38% are white students. Binge drinking is on the rise among young people. For every $1 spent more than $25 is spent to patch up ruined lives caused by alcohol abuse. What do you plan to do for us when this

Brian Richardson, I pass.

Bill Gary, 106 Forest Hills Drive. Times are tough; he is right. We are in a biggest bear market since the depression. But I want to ask you, How many have ridden on the Blue Ridge Parkway? Almost everyone. It was built by people with a vision in the toughest of times of our country, and no one can say that was not a good investment. We will not have another chance before development sweeps over us, so I urge support.

Scott Griffin, 110 Oakland Street. I will work hard to see that this bond is passed. My students asked me, are you going to speak? I showed them the maps and the plans, and they said you have to speak. Until I got involved in this process, I took the Council for granted. I never realized how much time you have to spend on issues that concern our city. Your attitude was professional and you weighed each item heavily and considered each for a long time. I am reminded that the Council challenged the people to get involved, and they did, and we had even more citizens with us each week as we went along. My challenge goes back to the Council now to do what needs to be done. We commend you for having the guts to give us the opportunity to vote on this. Also, I want to thank you for helping me to reconnect. I got back in touch with Lee Beatty, and many other citizens of this community that I had not spent time with in a long time. I urge all citizens to support the bonds. I believe this is partly for the children; remember, they are our future.

After the City Council had heard all persons who requested to be heard in connection with the foregoing questions, Council Member Harris moved that the public hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Council Member McLean, and was unanimously adopted.

Council Member Hubbard **MOVED** that the City Council adopt Resolution #03-13-03B the Bond Order with the changes as set forth in Appendix A hereto reflecting the revised Bond Order and direct the Clerk to the City Council to public a notice of adoption, as prescribed by The Local Government Bond Act, of the general obligation parks and recreation bond order entitled, "**BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $2,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PARKS AND RECREATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA**", as revised, which was introduced at the meeting of the City Council held on February 10, 2003.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Hough and was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Black announced that the City Council would hear anyone who wished to be heard on the questions of the validity of the general obligation parks and recreation bond order, and the advisability of issuing the General Obligation Parks and Recreation Bonds. The City Clerk distributed the general obligation parks and recreation bond order and the published notice of hearing to all requesting them.

City Manager Kraus stated that this public hearing is for consideration of $2.3 million in bonds for parks and recreation improvements. The selected projects are: 1. Linear Park from Main Street down to the Catawba River along the CSX Rail line and Central Avenue. 2. Gateway Park at the Highway 27 bridge on the Catawba River. There would be a pedestrian overpass at Highway 273 which is expensive to construct. This bond works similar to the other bond. He read the question that will be on the bond referendum ballot. Mr. Kraus said it is possible to vote yes for one and no for the other because they will be separate questions on the ballot. Jamie Guffey reviewed the projected tax increases for paying back the bonds if no other sources of revenue are used.

Suzanne Griffin, I pass.

Cecilia Broome, I pass.

C. C. Edens, 207 Rose St. We are in hard times, people are hurting, and we need to remember there is no free ride and we will have to pay this. I resent the attitude of some of our elected officials. I plan to vote against this bond and will protest the tax re-evaluation of my property this year. When your house is on fire it is not the time to rearrange the furniture.

Bob Suttenfield, 157 Oakland Street. I want to thank Mayor Black and the City Council to allow us to speak tonight. I support both referendums, because I recognize that for the first time in four attempts over last the 20 years we actually have chance to make this happen. The committees, businesses, and those who want to relocate here have all been working together in this process. I firmly believe that this is the last opportunity we will have to be in the driver's seat. We need to be in a position to deal with the change, and we need to be in place to control it. We can pick and choose how and where we want the growth to occur, or we can just let it happen to us. This plan is more comprehensive, over 150 citizens shared in the process, so it not is a mere dream, it can happen, but only if we step up and respond in support of the bonds. Look as this as a way to stabilize the tax and maybe even lower it. New business and people who will come to support them means a better tax base than we have now. I urge your support.

Richard Duren, did not come up when called.

ideas have been supported by everyone on Council and the committees; abuse of public funds are governed by state laws and are closely watched.

Millie Miller, I pass.

Bobbi Neely. 127 W. Nims Avenue. I own no business, and hold no office. I have nothing to gain from the bond referendum, except that change is the stuff of live and it will occur, it will either happen to us, or we embrace it and use it to the advantage of the people of Mt. Holly. I understand that money is involved, but there are vibrant people in Mount Holly and everyone drives through it. It is not aesthetically pleasing, and I want it to be pleasing. Whatever your choice, you will have a legacy, I would ask you take the information provided and the effort itself that people put forth, and put aside fears of economic woes. Stagnation is death, and if we do nothing we will feel the pains of that. Let Mt. Holly take this chance.

Mr. Scott Leo arrived at the meeting and was recognized by the Mayor; he is from the bond counsel law firm.

After the City Council had heard all persons who requested to be heard in connection with the foregoing questions, Council Member Helms moved that the public hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hough, and was unanimously adopted.

Council Member Hough **MOVED** that the City Council adopt Resolution #03-13-03A the Bond Order with the changes as set forth in Appendix A hereto reflecting the revised Bond Order and direct the Clerk to the City Council to public a notice of adoption, as prescribed by The Local Government Bond Act, of the general obligation infrastructure improvement bond order entitled, "**BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $2,700,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA**", as revised, which was introduced at the meeting of the City Council held on February 10, 2003.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Hope and was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

PH#2 To Consider Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of $2,300,000 General Obligation Parks and Recreation Bonds of the City of Mount Holly, North Carolina
Council Member Helms moved that the City Council next hold a public hearing on the bond order authorizing the issuance of $2,300,000 of general obligation parks and recreation bonds of the City of Mount Holly, North Carolina. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris, and was unanimously adopted.

to decide. I don't feel qualified to make this decision on my own. I will cast my one vote on that day based on my personal opinion, and I would expect everyone else to do the same.

Councilman McLean said I have butterflies in my stomach and I am ready to get on with the vote.

Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to adopt Res. 03-13-03D Resolution Calling for Alcoholic Beverage Election, as read (copy attached), seconded by Councilman Helms.
Discussion: City Attorney Michael asked that the resolution be amended to add on the second line after the word election: "in the City of Mt. Holly". Councilwoman Hubbard and Councilman Helms accepted this amendment to the resolution.
Councilman Hope stated that this vote does not give the personal opinion of the council members of this Council; it gives the citizens the opportunity to vote yes or no on this issue.
Vote: Unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#2 To Consider Resolution on Transportation Issue
Mayor Black stated that it has been reported in the newspaper that DOT is trying to divert funds that were supposed to be used in Mt. Holly for widening Highway 273 to Belmont with regard to the new Wal-Mart. Councilwoman Harris has served on that committee for 10 years, and they did not ask for approval by the Board. City Manager Kraus said that the TCC met yesterday and every single city in Gaston County felt strongly that the change of these two projects was the wrong thing to do including Belmont. A proposed resolution was read by Mr. Kraus. (copy attached)
Motion: Councilman Helms **MOVED** to adopt the resolution as read, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.
Vote: Unanimous. CARRIED.

ADJOURN
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made by Councilman Hough, seconded by Councilman Helms, with all in favor.

9:35 PM

Clerk

Robert D. Black
Mayor

****

cpm