



City of Claremont Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, December 5, 2016

The regular City Council meeting of the City of Claremont was held in the Council Chambers located at Claremont City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016.

The following members of the Claremont City Council were present: Mayor Shawn Brown, Councilmember Timothy Lowrance, Councilmember David Morrow, Councilmember Dale Sherrill, Councilmember Lee Miller and Councilmember Dayne Miller.

The following personnel of the City of Claremont were present: City Manager Catherine Renbarger, City Clerk Wendy Helms, Police Chief Gary Bost, Public Services Director Tom Winkler, Recreation Specialist Michael Orders, City Planner Leslie Meadows and City Attorney Bob Grant.

Others in attendance were: Robert Winrow, Danny Hedrick, Robert Smith, Jason Lowrance, Charles Helms and John Cathey.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shawn R. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Timothy Lowrance gave the invocation and Mayor Shawn Brown led the pledge of allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Brown spoke briefly about the Claremont Christmas Parade. He informed those in attendance of the Economic Development Workshop that was held in November. He also mentioned that beginning in January a student from Claremont Elementary will be leading the pledge each month.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. November 7, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes – Councilmember David Morrow made a motion to accept November 7, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. November 7, 2016 Closed Session – Councilmember David Morrow made a motion to accept the closed session minutes from November 7, 2016. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Call for Public Hearing- Project Acronym- A public hearing is needed before Council can enter into an economic development agreement for Project Acronym as permitted by the provisions of N.C.G.S. § 158-7.1.

Councilmember David Morrow made a motion to call for a public hearing at the January 9, 2016 meeting. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN CONCERNS & COMMENTS- Robert Winrow approached the podium. He asked that Council look into the maintenance of streets in Rachel's Vineyard. The streets have started to crack.

OLD BUSINESS- Council was presented a budget transfer. These transfers were made at the request of the department heads. This is informational only.

PRESENTATION-Councilmember Dale Sherrill congratulated Jeffrey D. Kanupp for being awarded the PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Kanupp is a student at Catawba Valley Community College studying Fire Science.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Motion was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance to recess the regular meeting and go into a Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m. Second was made by David Morrow. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances, Title 2 Government and Administration are as follows;

- Changes start time of Council meeting from 7 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Spelling Corrections
- Change time for public comment from 10 minutes to 5 minutes
- Action from Council meeting to be delivered to the City Clerk one week prior to the meeting, instead of 4 days.

A legal advertisement for the public hearing was published on November 25, 2016 in the Observer News Enterprise.

Motion was made by Councilmember David Morrow to close the public hearing at 7:14. Second was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember David Morrow to into a Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m. Second was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. Motion was unanimous.

This public hearing allow for public comment on the proposed amendments to the Landscaping of Parking Areas section of our Zoning Ordinance, Article H, Sec. 9-3-156. These proposed amendments help ease demands on developers. The amended standards requested are more feasible and more parallel with what surrounding comparable cities are enforcing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance to close the public hearing and go back to regular session at 7:18 p.m. Second was made by Councilmember Dayne Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 13-16 Amending the Code of Ordinances Landscaping of Parking Lots- On October 17th, the Planning Board reviewed and accepted proposal of text amendments to Claremont's Landscaping of Parking Areas requirements, as set forth in Title 9, Zoning Chapter 3, Article H, Sec. 9-3-156.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to approve Ordinance 13-16 because the zoning text amendment is consistent with Claremont's long range Land Use Development Plan. Second was made by Councilmember Lee Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Ordinance 14-16 Amending the Code of Ordinances Title 2 Government and Administration- City staff ask Council to consider changes to the City Code of Ordinance, Title 2 Government and Administration. Corrections will be made to spelling. Changes would also be made to the start time of Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Time for public comment would be changed from 10 minutes to 5 minutes. Staff feels these changes would help bring the Ordinance up to date.

Motion was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance to accept Ordinance 14-16. Second was made by Councilmember David Morrow. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance 15-16 Amend the FY 2016-2017 Budget- The City recently learned that the Fire Department was awarded two separate grants. One grant was awarded from the Department of Homeland Security for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$23,810. As a condition of this award, the City is required to contribute \$1,190. This grant will be used to install updated communication and safety equipment in our Engines and Ladder Truck. The equipment will provide hearing protection for personnel operating in and around the apparatus as well as allow clear communications for responding and operating personnel. The City has also received a \$1,200 grant award from the NC Forestry Service to replace outdated equipment on Fire Engine 76 and provide tech response rescue bags for Engine 71 and another vehicle. This grant requires a \$1,200 local government match. This budget amendment amends the budget to account for the grant revenue and associated expenditures. The local match portions of the grant were already included in the budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lee Miller to adopt Ordinance 15-16 amending the FY 2016-2017 budget. Second was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. Motion passed unanimously.

D. 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule- Council was asked to consider proposed dates for City Council meeting during 2017. The schedule will be the first Monday of the month, except for the following holidays-New Year's, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Please note that a time change has been

made also. In recent months we have discussed having a change in time for the monthly Council meetings. Meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. starting January 2017.

Motion was made by Councilmember David Morrow to approve the proposed 2017 City Council meeting schedule. Second was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Contract with Catawba County First Responder- The Claremont Fire Department is requesting council action to approve medical response contract with Catawba County. The contract stipulates CFD will provide medical coverage and response from the hours of 0800-1700(5pm) Monday – Friday. Contract further stipulates CFD will provide minimum of 1 EMT, apparatus and medical equipment compliant with Catawba County EMS medical protocols and procedures. One goal in the 2015 Action Plan is to expand the City’s response to medical calls within the City limits. Contract has already been approved by Catawba County.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to approve the contract with Catawba County, allowing Claremont Fire Department to be First Responders. Second was made by Councilmember Dayne Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Presentation of 2015-2016 Audit Report- Debora Wentz presented Council with an overview of the 2015-2016 audit.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Departmental Dashboard was accepted as presented.

Recreation- Michael thanked all City departments for their assistance in this year’s parade.

Police- Chief Bost made mention of all the training his department has been involved with.

Public Services- Public Service Director Tom Winkler thanked the Fire Department for their help hanging the parade banner. He also updated Council on the water/sewer extension to Substance Inc.

Fire- Chief Travis informed everyone the burning ban had been lifted.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

City Manager Renbarger asked Council to consider the dates on the budget calendar in their packets. She also spoke briefly about the sidewalk project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance to recess the regular meeting at 8:03 p.m. and go into closed session reference G.S. 143.318-11(6) Personnel. Second was made by Councilmember Dayne Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to go back into regular session at 8:51 p.m. Second was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to give a 5% performance increase to the City Manager, on the anniversary date of her hire date. Second was made by Councilmember Timothy Lowrance. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business of the board, motion was made by Councilmember Lee Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Second was made by Councilmember Dayne Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. Helms, City Clerk

Shawn R. Brown, Mayor

Attested:

Wendy L. Helms, City Clerk