



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 3, 2012

The regular City Council meeting of the City of Claremont was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

The following members of the Claremont City Council were present: Mayor David Morrow, Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance, Councilmember Shawn Brown, Councilmember Nicky Setzer, Councilmember Dale Sherrill and Councilmember Dale Setzer.

The following personnel of the City of Claremont were present: City Manager, Doug Barrick, City Attorney, Bob Grant, Finance Officer, Stephanie Corn, Administrative Support Clerk, Mandy Buff, Police Chief, Gerald Tolbert, Police Captain, Gary Bost, Fire Chief, Gary Sigmon and Garrick Butts.

Others in attendance were: Susan Tucker, Laurie LoCicero, Henry Helton, Melanie Starr, Robert Smith, Paul Christ, Cody Setzer, James Setzer, Gene Monday, Scott Ramsey, Ryan Smith, Sam Erwin and Nash Dunn.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Associate Pastor, Paul Christ from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Claremont. Councilmember Dale Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported the Council and members of other departments went to the Public Works facility just before the Council meeting to look at the changes that have been made inside the facility. On December 10th at the Fire Department was the first Mayor's Planning Breakfast. The Council, City Manager, Mayor and some members from the Western Piedmont Council of Government discussed the plans for Claremont for the next 3 to 5 years. Plans are being made to have a joint reception with Claremont and Conover before the next Council meeting in February.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2011- A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the December 5, 2011 minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session Minutes – December 5, 2011 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the December 5, 2011 closed session minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Mayor's Planning Breakfast Minutes – December 10, 2011 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the December 10, 2011 Mayor's Planning Breakfast minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013 Budget Calendar - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget calendar as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

No one signed up or spoke.

7. PRESENTATION

A. City of Claremont Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Audit - Melanie Starr stated the general fund is the major operating fund for the City of Claremont. The major revenue source for the general fund is ad valorem taxes collected by the Catawba County on behalf of the city. The total revenues are as follows:

Budget - \$2,406,251

Actual - \$2,624,977

Variance - \$218,726

2010 Actual* - \$2,566,805 * 2010 restated change for General Capital Project Fund.

Expenditures includes all department costs such as salaries and related benefits, supplies and materials, contracted services, travel and training, repairs and maintenance, capital outlay (as needed) and debt service. The total expenditures are as follows:

Budget - \$2,729,318

Actual - \$2,613,222

Variance - \$116,096

2010 Actual* - \$2,423,433 * 2010 restated change for General Capital Project Fund.

The ending fund balance in the general fund at June 30, 2011 was \$2,189,472. Of this fund balance, \$273,451 is restricted fund balance, which is not available for appropriation in the budget. Restricted amounts include public safety at \$7,775, transportation at \$103,527 and stabilization for the state statute of \$162,149. In the 2012 FY budget, \$197,775 is budgeted as designated for subsequent year's budget and this amount is reported as assigned fund balance. Total assigned fund balance is \$1,718,246.

The water & sewer fund is operated as an enterprise fund because the purpose of this fund is to account for services in which a charge is made to cover the cost of services. The beginning net assets for 2011 were \$5,679,520 compared to 2010 which was \$5,675,792. The ending net assets were \$5,679,520 compared to 2010 which was \$5,659,592.

With insightful planning for the future capital needs, the City is poised to maintain a very positive financial position.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:33 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the Francis Sigman park PARTF grant. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Francis Sigman Park PARTF Grant – Sam Erwin, Environmental Development Administrator for the WPCOG, stated the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is about the only revenue that local Governments have for recreation funds in the state. There use to be the land and water fund that existed for years but that's pretty much gone. A few years ago when the economy was good the Parks and recreation trust Fund had about \$14 million, last year they had \$6 million and this year it's projected this year they'll have about \$4 million. We had 4 applicants last year. Two of them were funded. One them was Conover which had never been funded before. This year it looks like there will be two applicants. It's going to be limited funds this year but a lot of local governments have decided not to apply because they don't have the money to match. Other local governments are using sources like money that has been donated. The applications are due January 31st. In May, the Parks and Recreation trust Fund authority will meet and award grants based on the 3rd quarter revenues they receive. They get a percentage of real estate taxes that's how they function. In July they will award grants based on the 1st and 2nd quarter of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. They have a scoring system and that plays a big part of it. They also look at the city's population and other local government's population. Then there's geographical distribution. They have a map of North Carolina that shows where every project that has been funded and what they do is try and even it out every year as best as they can. A lot of it depends on how much money the applicants are requesting. With the limited amount of money this year you can apply up to \$500,000 but they may be looking at trying to spread it out as much as they can which would really help Claremont. Another thing they look at is if you have applied before and have never been funded. PARTF requires a 50% match and it has to be cash. The things we are looking at improving are providing a parking lot upgrade, three new handicap parking areas, two new concrete stairways, a new driveway, ball field improvements, a walking trail and restrooms. One thing that will improve your points is it is in you Capital Improvement Plan this year and it wasn't last year. If you have any questions I can try and answer them or pass them along to Henry.

Jonathan Waters, Chair of the Adrian L. Shuford YMCA, stated I would like to see collaboration between the YMCA of Catawba Valley and Parks and Recreation as well as Claremont and the City of Conover. Our youth today deserve an outlet and if you haven't noticed technology is taking over. They need some outside time and they need to learn wisdom the way we learned wisdom.

Tim Turner, President of the Claremont Optimist Club, would love to see the park project move forward. The Optimist Club doesn't have the means to develop the park and the additions will help.

Henry Helton stated he has several people interested in using the softball field. Some of the residents that live close to the park are interested in a walking trail. There are also some groups that want to have tournaments in the park.

Robert Smith stated the Francis Sigman Park project has been in the works for 20 years. Francis Sigman loved children. The land was deeded to the Francis Sigman Foundation. In that deed it states if anything happens to the foundation or the Claremont Optimist Club the land goes to the City of Claremont. Mr. Sigman and many others have put a lot of time and work in to Francis Sigman Park. There are two major drain lines under the park. The land off to the side has been approved for bathrooms. The undeveloped land has a lease with the area farmers.

At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 08-11 FY 2012 Budget Amendment – A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept ordinance 08-11 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2011-2012 PARTF Grant Application Approval – A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Setzer to approve the 2011-2012 PARTF grant application as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Susan Tucker reported the Youth Council moved their meeting to Sunday, January 8th. She also reported the youth are very active and are coming up lots of ideas for the upcoming year.

B. Fire Department – Chief Gary Sigmon reported the Fire Department responded to 305 calls year to date. The average member response to calls was 8. The average response time to calls is 3 minutes 55 seconds till the first engine was on the scene. The total training hours for the year is 4,386 for the department. There were 69 business inspections, 29 re-inspections, 10 safety inspections, 1 plan review and 37 pre plans were completed for the year.

C. Police Department – Chief Gerald Tolbert reported officers made two arrests for unauthorized use of vehicles, investigated a report of a stolen vehicle from Pinocchio's Pizza which was later recovered by a Catawba County Sheriff's Deputy and officers made two arrests for shoplifting at Dollar General one of which included a resist and delay charge.

D. Public Works – Public Works Director Tom Winkler reported public works department jetted out and cleaned 948 feet of main sewer line on Lawrence Drive, 592 feet on Anderson Street, 589 feet on West Calvin Street and 767 feet on Pine Street.

E. Rescue Squad – Ryan Smith reported they had 50 total calls, 47 of the calls were emergency. He stated the last two weeks calls have been down. The gun raffle will start in January.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Barrick reported December was a successful month. The AdvancePierre Foods project has been finalized and the loan repayment should begin soon. A new dump truck has been ordered for the utility department. We will be sending out information on the liquid smoke to some of the residents in January. We are also preparing documents and reports for the FOG Ordinance implementation.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported an application came in for an 80 foot high rise sign at Carolina Coach & Camper and it has been approved. The Planning Board met in December to consider modification to 10/70 bonus permit that was issued to 2973 Kelly Blvd. (Williams Sonoma). The modification was approved to allow 65 more parking spaces. Laurie stated the Western Piedmont Council of Government is officially in their new building.

H. Parks & Recreation – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance reported they haven't their regular meeting yet. Some of the events that are planned for this year are Senior Citizen Breakfast, canasta, tailgate market, spring yard sale, spring hazardous waste collection, city wide Easter egg hunt, Memorial Day ceremony, Claremont Day, fall hazardous waste collection, Veterans Day Ceremony, and the 29th Annual Christmas Parade.

Henry Helton stated the Boy Scout will work on Saturdays on the landscape around the Veterans Memorial. He took the Council's suggestions and revised his plan. The project has to be done by Memorial Day.

I. Appearance Committee – No report was given.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the new fiscal year budget planning process has begun. An action plan will be presented at February's City Council meeting. We can now accept credit/debit cards for water and sewer payments. The main antenna for the wireless internet is on top of City Hall and we hope to have the wireless internet available in the downtown area by the end of the month. City offices will be closed on January 16th to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The budget retreat will be on February 25th. City Manager Barrick thanked the businesses in the downtown area for decorating at Christmas time.

13. CLOSED SESSION – At 8:27 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) (Attorney-Client Privilege), G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) (Personnel Matter) and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) (EDC Contract). Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:21 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion on the Budget Retreat date. City Manager Barrick stated the Budget Retreat could be held on February 18th. The Council voted to accept this date.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer stated there is a meeting at the WPCOG on January 24th.

City Manager Barrick stated he would be away on February 1, 2 and 3 at the NC City /County Manager's Conference.

14. ADJOURN - At 9:27 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff,
Administrative Support Clerk

APPROVED DECEMBER 5, 2011