



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 2, 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 Monday, April 2, 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, Public Works Director, Tom Winkler and Public Works Lead Supervisor, Garrick Butts.

Others in attendance were: Robert Smith, Sandy Sherrill, Gail Wartner, Rachel Cox, Carson Shell, Chandler Griffith, Alex Beeman, Jordan Black, Jesse Story, Taylor Sigmon, Dylan Shook, Robert Winrow, Henry Hilton, Glenn Morrison, Ashley Wike, Autumn Edwards, Jason Lowrance, Jennifer Lowrance, Andrea Ramsey, Gene Monday and Scott Ramsey.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Reverend Craig Schultz from Bethel Lutheran Church. Councilmember Dale Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported on March 22 marked the Mayor's for Meals Day which was held at the Bethlehem United Methodist Church. City Manager Barrick, Mayor Morrow, Jan Morrow, and Ashley Wike attended the event and helped serve food to the elderly. On March 27th Claremont's governing officials and police toured the new Western Piedmont Council of Government facility. The Easter egg hunt is postponed until April 7th. Mayor Morrow and City Manager Barrick attended the County wide kick off for Child Abuse and Neglect prevention month. The business breakfast is on April 24th.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Budget Retreat Regular Minutes – February 18, 2012 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the regular budget retreat minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session Budget Retreat Minutes – February 18, 2012 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the closed session budget retreat minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2012 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the regular meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Closed Minutes Minutes – March 5, 2012 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept the closed session minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

There weren't any concerns or comments.

7. PRESENTATION

A. City of Claremont Citywide Park Improvements – City Manager Barrick stated the following items need to be replaced in the Claremont City Park: the grill at the upper shelter, several trash cans, the mulch around the first play area beside the tennis courts, mulch around the slide, and the shelters. The slide needs some containment around it, the old bridge needs some maintenance work done to it, the new bridge needs a sign for the new trail, the old walking trail need to be removed and the parking lot needs new lights. White Oak Park has no parking area and needs a mulch path system. Francis Sigman Park needs new gravel on the road and some bathrooms, needs new stairs, new goal posts, and install a fence or gate along the roadway.

B. Rising Hope Farms – Gail Wartner, owner and operator of Rising Hope Farms, stated Rising Hope Farm is a charitable organization. They are a therapeutic riding facility for special needs children and adults, they have Hooves for Hospice which is for children or teens that have lost one or both parents do to death, and they have Horses for Heroes, for military, police and fire veterans. They are planning to build an indoor arena so they can remain open during the winter months.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There wasn't any old business to discuss.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 11-11 Budget Amendment EDC Fund – A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to approve ordinance 11-11 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Ordinance 12-11 Budget Amendment – PJ Stanley Fund – A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to approve ordinance 12-11 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance 13-11 Budget Amendment – General Fund – A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve ordinance 13-11 as presented. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. May 7, 2012 City Council Meeting Location – The Catawba County Board of Elections will be using the Council Chambers for the Primary Election Voting on May 8, 2012. In order to prepare for the elections, their staff will be setting up the voting machines on the evening of May 7, 2011. In the past the Council has relocated the meeting in lieu of rescheduling the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to relocate the May 7th Council meeting to the Claremont City Park, if there is inclement weather the alternate location will be the Claremont Fire Department's training room. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the FY 2012 budget to cover a transfer to the PJ Stanley fund.

F. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the FY 2012 budget to cover rising fuel costs, recreation programs and sidewalk repairs.

G. Resolution 15-11 Child Abuse Prevention Month – A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Setzer to approve Resolution 15-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Quarterly Financial Report – City Manager Barrick reported the City is 99.20% on budget with collections and 73.46% on budget with expenditures.

Finance Officer Stephanie Corn reported from the water & sewer department stand point the City has collected 74.62% of the expected revenue and has spent 65.03% of the amount budgeted for water & sewer.

B. Youth Council – Autumn Edwards from Bandy's High School reported the Easter egg hunt has been postponed due to inclement weather. The Youth Council needs cancer survivors to sign up for Relay for Life walk. They are selling raffle tickets, luminaries, feet, cupcakes and flip flops to raise money for Relay for Life. The Youth Council needs members for next year's Youth Council.

Councilmember Shawn Brown challenged the City Council to donate money to purchase a wall of hope in memory of former Councilmember James Stanley.

C. Fire Department – Chief Gary Sigmon reported they responded to two serious accidents during the month. They are doing maintenance on fire hydrants during the month of April. On May 5th the Fire Department will be having their annual pancake breakfast beginning at 6 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance stated the Claremont Firefighters challenge the City Council to help serve food at the Claremont Rescue Squads pig pickn' and poker run and the pancake breakfast.

D. Police Department – Captain Gary Bost reported Chief Tolbert is away at training. The Police Department had an assault on a female at a business. The ex boyfriend tried to kidnap her.

Mayor Morrow inquired about a female that had overdosed on medicine. Captain Bost stated the female had taken too many pills and she was taken to the hospital to get help.

Mayor Morrow inquired about the crime in the city. Captain Bost stated crime is down but there have been several counterfeit money and bad check incidents.

E. Public Works – Public Works Director Tom Winkler reported they have located, dug up and removed a hydrant on North Lookout St. and they have installed a new fire hydrant closer to the road way. They have also relocated two water taps and replaced a meter.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer asked if the valve is leaking at Centennial and Lookout St. Mr. Winkler stated that it is leaking and there is no way to replace it unless they dig up the intersection.

F. Rescue Squad – City Manager Barrick reported the Rescue Squad has received a grant for AED's and 800 MHz radios. Their 12th Annual Pig Pick n' and Poker Run is on April 21st.

G. Utilities Department – City Manager Barrick reported everything is flowing smoothly, had a big flow of soap at the McClin plant. They are doing some industrial monitoring to see where the soap came from. The standard on the fire hydrants has been changed to 5 ¼" barrel with stortz.

H. Planning & Zoning – City Manager Barrick expressed his condolences to City Planner Laurie LoCicero for the passing of her mother. He reported it was a busy month for planning & zoning. Matlock Used Parts has their fence almost complete and are working on their landscape. They hope to be open by late spring.

I. Parks & Recreation Committee – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance reported they had a two hour meeting. The Tailgate Market starts this Friday and WNNC is advertising the Tailgate Market. The Parks & Recreation Committee would like to change Claremont Day to Claremont Daze. Claremont Day will begin the Friday night before with a live band. Disk Golf is being added to Francis Sigman Park and there will be a haunted trail at Francis Sigman Park at Halloween.

City Manager Barrick stated there will be a resolution at May's Council meeting to formally change Claremont Day to Claremont Daze.

J. Appearance Committee – Councilmember Nicky Setzer reported the Appearance Committee did not meet in March.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Barrick reported the new street signs are in. There are 91 signs to be put up. The Tailgate Market kicks off this Friday. He also reminded everyone to put leaves and grass clippings in clear plastic bags for Public Works to pick up on Mondays and Fridays. He also reminded everyone to mow their grass and to make sure that anyone who has a dog to make sure it is leashed and for them to clean up their dogs

poop. City Manager Barrick asked the Police Department to keep a close eye out for people littering because of a reoccurring issue. The first reading of the policy updates and budget will be at the May's Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance mentioned putting a reminder at the bottom of the water bill to not blow grass clippings in the roadway.

Mayor Morrow asked City Manager Barrick where he was on the door hanger project that has various issues on them as a way to communicate with the citizens when there is an issue that needs to be corrected. City Manager Barrick reported he is finalizing them.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer mentioned City Manager Barrick may want to call GDS and ask them to keep the garbage cans out of the roadway and sidewalks when they are finished dumping the trash out of the garbage cans.

13. CLOSED SESSION – At 8:46 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 9:28 p.m. Councilmember Dale Setzer made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Barrick reported there is going to be a huge Fourth of July Celebration and all proceeds go to the Cozzen family to help with medical bills. The event will take place the Saturday after the Fourth of July and they want to keep it around the two churches on Main Street in Claremont. Cassie Cozzen is home and her cast is off.

The Council agreed to support the Fourth of July celebration.

14. ADJOURN - At 9:33 p.m. Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff,
Administrative Support Clerk

APPROVED MAY 7, 2012