



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, August 6, 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, August 6, 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, and Councilmember Dale Setzer. Councilmember Dale Sherrill was absent.

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 Winrow, Brenda Stanley, Judy Simmons, Kay Maxwell, Bill Clarke, John Lentz, Susan Tucker, Michelle Johnson, Jeassalyn Johnson, Matthew Ross, Shuford Abernathy, Jason Lowrance, Robert Smith, Laurie LoCicero, Steve Norris, Andrea Ramsey, Melinda Herzog and Gene Monday.

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 Popplemann Plastics lease agreement was added to the agenda to be reapproved after the closed session.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Dr. Perry Miller from Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Councilmember Dale Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported through verbal confirmation the City has been awarded a grant to construct a sidewalk around the City and to make repairs to the existing sidewalk. Subway will be coming to Claremont soon. They will be moving in to a vacant space beside Lowes Foods. The Shell gas station will be converting to Seven Eleven. Mayor Morrow welcomed the new Principal at Claremont Elementary School, Kim Yancey and the new Assistant Principal. On July 30th the Mayor attended an EDC meeting and they discussed what could be done to attract new businesses and to update old businesses. The City Park has new rubber mulch around the playground equipment. Mayor Morrow thanked Councilmember Shawn Brown

and Cargo Transportation for helping the City to get the mulch. The men's bathroom in the city park is being updated; everyone is to use the women's bathroom while the updates are being done.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – July 2, 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.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None.

7. PRESENTATION

A. PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarships – The PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship Committee has reviewed the applications for the inaugural scholarship awards to honor former City Councilman "PJ" Stanley. The recipients of the fall 2012 awards are:

Matthew Ross who is a 2012 graduate of Bunker Hill High School, a member of the Oxford Fire Department and he is attending CVCC for a Criminal Justice Degree.

Jessalyn Johnson is a 2012 graduate of UNCC in Exercise Science, a member of the Claremont Rescue Squad and she is attending CVCC for an Emergency Medical Science Degree.

Brenda Stanley presented the awards to the two recipients.

B. Catawba County Historical Association – Shuford Abernathy, III, CCHA President and Melinda Herzog, CCHA Executive Director gave a presentation of the history of the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge. The CCHA with the aid of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Conservation Fund, Carolina Thread Trail, Catawba County Government and the State of North Carolina are seeking to acquire the additional land surrounding the bridge site. The planned park site will include nature and history hiking trails, picnic areas, bus and car parking lot, a park office and an educational and reception building overlooking the bridge.

8. OLD BUSINESS

City Manager Barrick stated the water & sewer software is due for an upgrade. The upgrade was not budgeted but there is money for it in the budget. The most the upgrade will cost is around \$8,000.

The Council gave the approval to move forward with needed upgrade.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Text Amendment 12-03 Solar Facilities – This amendment divides the facilities into 2 categories, major and minor. Minor facilities are the equipment that an individual resident or business will place on their property to generate energy for their own use; this is accessory to the primary use of the property.

Major solar facilities, or solar farms, are a primary use, where more than five panels are used to generate electricity to be sold or resold to the market. Minor facilities are an accessory use that will be allowed in all zoning districts in conjunction with a primary use. Major solar facilities are recommended to be allowed in the M-1 Manufacturing and R-2 Residential agriculture districts with conditions. Our Zoning Ordinance did not specifically address solar power generation. All power generation uses are currently considered an “essential service 3” and must adhere to strict regulations. There is no differentiation between passive power generation, such as solar and wind, and active power generation such as coal-fired or natural gas plants. This text amendment allows for more flexibility regarding solar farms.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Susan Tucker reported the Youth Council hasn't met yet. They will meet on September 9th. They have approved 9 applicants. Councilmember Dale Setzer is now on the Youth Council.

B. Fire Department – Chief Gary Sigmon will be attending the Fire Chief & Firefighter Conference this week to look at a new service truck.

C. Police Department – Chief Gerald Tolbert reported 20 citations were served and 54 warnings were written. Mark Hayes and Cody Jarvis have completed their training and are now ready to work as patrol officers part time. He also stated there have been several auto break-ins. The suspects are targeting unlocked vehicles. He encouraged everyone to lock your vehicle doors and to keep valuables out of sight.

D. Public Works – Public Works Director Tom Winkler reported his crew jetted out and cleaned 850 feet of main sewer line on Main Street and washed out and cleaned four man holes. They worked with NCDOT on reworking the ditch lines on Penny and Kelly. The renovations have begun on the restrooms in the City Park.

E. Rescue Squad – Assistant Chief Steve Norris reported they responded to 67 total calls, 60 were hot. Their average response time was 5:55. Their last Early Bird drawing is Thursday, August 9th, they will start the month long drawing on September 1st, 2012. The Mayor, City Manager and all Councilmen are invited to the meeting on August 9th and the meal they are having at the Rescue Squad. They will be eating at 7:00 p.m. They did a training class on Sports Medicine with the Head Trainer from Bunker Hill High School on pt. care for an injured athlete. This training was to help them get prepared for the upcoming football season. Mr. Creamer showed how to stabilize a football player who is injured and still in his helmet and pads, he also showed how to remove the helmet and pads with basic hand tools. Some of the upcoming training that they are going to have at the squad includes, The EVD Trailer class, pool training for the injured swimmer and extrication training/review.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported he is continuing to evaluate regional options for wastewater treatment. They have begun an evaluation of the McLin WWTP. One person has been sent to waste water collections school. The McLin plant will be out of compliance for BOD for the month of June. Claremont has sent notice to the state in an attempt to waive fines for the months of April, May and June. The sewage dumping has decreased.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported she met with Mary George from Catawba County regarding the County's portion of the Lyle Creek Greenway.

H. Parks & Recreation – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance reported the committee is working on the Christmas Parade, which they still need a grand marshal for. Everything is in place for Claremont Daze. The Veterans subcommittee met and they want to have the Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday.

I. Appearance Committee – City Manager Barrick reported the committee did not meet in July.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the memorial benches have been delivered. The PJ Stanley memorial bench will be placed at the elm tree in the City Park and the Russell Boggs memorial bench will be placed at the entrance to Rachel Vineyards. Public Works has installed new signs. The fall citywide yard sale will be November 3rd also there will be a 5k run and fun walk all proceeds go to the PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship Fund.

13. CLOSED SESSION – At 8:11 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) (EDC Contract). Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:39 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

POPPELMANN PLASTICS LEASE AGREEMENT - Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to approve the Popplemann Plastics lease agreement. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about the McLin waste water treatment plant.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to allow City Attorney Bob Grant and City Manager Doug Barrick to proceed with the scope of services in regards to the McLin waste water treatment plant. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. ADJOURN - At 9:26 p.m. Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff,
Administrative Support Clerk

Approved Tuesday, September 4, 2012