



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 4, 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, September 4, 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, 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. City Attorney Bob Grant attended the meeting via Skype.

Others in attendance were: Henry Helton, Heather Blanton, Robert Winrow, Brian Helms, Rupert Little, James Hannah, Clay Buff, John Lentz, Sherri Frazier, Glenda Frazier, Jeff Glace, Jason Lowrance, Elizabeth Smyre, Jennifer Lowrance, Becky Hannah, 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

Item I. Personnel Policy was added to 5. Consent Agenda.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Reverend William Hollar. Councilmember Nicky Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow thanked the members of the Claremont Rescue Squad for preparing a meal for the Councilmember's and the Rescue Squad's family members on August 9th. Mayor Morrow also thanked the Councilmember's, Chief Gerald Tolbert and Captain Gary Bost for representing Claremont at the Old Soldiers Reunion parade. Mayor Morrow read a thank you letter from Jessalyn Johnson that expressed her gratitude for receiving the PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship. Mayor Morrow mentioned Matthew Ross was also awarded the scholarship. He also read a thank you letter from Kim Yancey, the new Principal at Claremont Elementary.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2012 - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept August 6, 2012 regular meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session Minutes – August 6, 2012 - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept August 6, 2012 closed session minutes as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 02-12 Voluntary Annexation Sufficiency (ANX 12-01) - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve Resolution 02-12 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution 03-12 Voluntary Annexation Public Hearing (ANX 12-01) - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve Resolution 03-12 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approve an Agreement with Davenport Lawrence - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve the agreement with Davenport Lawrence as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Approve an Amendment to the Agreement for the County-Wide Gang Prevention Grant - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve the amendment to the agreement for the county-wide gang prevention grant with the correction of "City of Claremont" instead of "Town of Claremont". Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Ordinance 02-12 FY 2013 Budget Amendment - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve Ordinance 02-12 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Lease Agreement with Cellco Partnership - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve the lease agreement with Cellco Partnership with the legal text to be determined by Claremont's attorney and Cellco Partnership's attorney. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Personnel Policy - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve the City of Claremont's personnel policy as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Chris Crunkleton stated he leases the Hewitt Store for storage purposes. He had set some items out in front of his store under the awning because he had forgot his keys and when he returned six days later the items were gone. He called the police department and an officer was sent to his location, he then told the officer what had happened. Mr. Crunkleton later spoke with City Manager Barrick whom told Mr. Crunkleton the maintenance department had picked up the items because the items were in violation of City ordinances. Mr. Crunkleton stated he would like the City to reimburse him for the items that were not returned to him and for the items that were returned but damaged.

City Manager Barrick explained to Mr. Crunkleton that the Council meeting is not the place to discuss his issue and that he would need to contact the City's attorney.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:21 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to open the public hearing. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Text Amendment 12-03 Solar Farms and Solar Facilities – City Manager Barrick stated Laurie is out on vacation that is the reason we had brought this to Council at our August meeting. What we are looking at is a code change that addresses passive and solar generation in our code. Previously our code has never addressed passive generation be it wind, solar, geothermal energy production in our city limits. Solar and passive energy is a hot ticket item now. There is a small passive generation system so if someone wanted to put a geothermal system at their house. If they wanted to put on or two solar panels on their roof for hot water or a little bit of solar it addresses that. It also addresses the large scale solar generation in our rural and manufacturing districts. It also sets up some language and conditions in there for setbacks, buffers and special language if those special generations butt up to residential property. There is language that addresses if these operations were to ever cease operations, they would have to have a decommissioning plan and also a set of fines are associated with that. If they were to ever go bankrupt they would have to leave the system where it is so Claremont could take over the system or return the land back to its natural state. Bob has looked at this and the planning board voted unanimously on this.

At 7:24 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:26 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to open the public hearing. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Voluntary Annexation Request 12-01 2394 Penny Road – There was no discussion.

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 03-12 Solar Farms and Solar Facilities – A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to approve Ordinance 03-12 as presented. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Ordinance 04-12 Extension of the Claremont Corporate City Limits (ANX 12-01) - A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to approve Ordinance 04-12 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. FY 13 Paving Program - A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to approve FY 2013 Paving Program as presented. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Exit 135 Lighting Evaluation - A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Setzer to support NCDOT in putting lighting up at exit 135 but the City will not take on the annual cost of power or the cost of maintenance. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Claremont Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance stated Fire Chief Gary Sigmon and City Manager Doug Barrick have done some research and found a 2003 American LaFrance 75ft ladder truck with 27,000 miles, 400 pump hours and is current on all service and testing. The only reason the department is selling the truck is it doesn't match their fleet. The Fire Department could get an estimated 15 years of service out of the ladder truck. The department does have the equipment on their service truck to equip the ladder truck with. It is in the Fire Department's CIP to upgrade the service truck but with the purchase of the ladder truck there wouldn't be a need to purchase as big of a service truck. The ladder truck would also improve the departments ISO rating. Mayor Pro Tem Lowrance proposed Chief Sigmon, City Manager Barrick and a couple of Firefighters go to Pennsylvania and look at the truck. The price they are asking is \$340,000 with the equipment that stays on it and it would cost an additional \$100,000 to place into service for paint, radios, SCBA packs, hand tools, hose, etc. A new ladder truck would cost an estimated \$750,000 to \$900,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion Chief Gary Sigmon, City Manager Doug Barrick and several members of the Fire Department go to Pennsylvania to investigate the ladder truck and any others they may find. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown reported the Youth Council will meeting on Sunday. The City of Claremont will be feeding Bunker Hill High School's band and football team before their upcoming away game. It will be at 3:30 p.m. in the lunch room at Bunker Hill High School.

B. Fire Department – Chief Gary Sigmon reported on August 7th several members attended the 2012 Chief and Firefighter convention in Raleigh.

C. Police Department – Chief Gerald Tolbert reported officers investigated three cases of vandalism to vehicles in White Oak Court. Officers are investigating two cases of identity fraud.

D. Public Works – Public Works Director Tom Winkler reported Public Works has purchased a new tractor with a front bucket. The new tractor replaced a 1988 Ford tractor. He stated the park restrooms have been renovated.

E. Rescue Squad – City Manager Barrick reported the monthly drawing for guns has started. The calls for last month were 72 total, 60 hot and the average response time was 5:54 per call. The rescue squad thanked the Councilmember's and Mayor for eating with them last month.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Barrick reported it was a busy month. The waste water report is available for viewing on the City's website and at City Hall. He has been working with DENR on fines associated with the dumping issue. The dumping has stopped. City Manager Barrick and other City employees worked for two days trying to locate a leak. The leak was on NCDOT's line at the rest area. The generator has been repaired at the McLin plant. He is working with Catawba County to extend a water line to the Bunker Hill covered bridge.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Manager Barrick reported he is working with Verizon Wireless on installing the antennas on the water tower. Sprint is upgrading their antennas to 4G. Sprint and Subway should be completed at the end of October.

H. Parks & Recreation – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance reported the committee had been busy. October 5th and 6th is Claremont Daze. The band "Too Much Sylvia" will be performing Friday night. Saturday's events will begin at 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. November 3rd is the City-wide yard sale, there will be many events taking place that day. Wednesday, September 12th there will be a pep rally in the city park for Bunker Hill's homecoming on Friday night. The Claremont Christmas parade is December and the parade route has been set in stone.

I. Appearance Committee – Councilmember Nicky Setzer reported two of the benches have been installed. The PJ Stanley bench has been placed near the Police Department and the Russell Boggs bench was placed at the entrance of Rachel's Vineyard. The pumpkin carving contest will be October 29th.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the wifi has been extended. There are donation boxes around town for donation to the PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship fund. City Manager Barrick thanked the Police Department for their donation. He is meeting with DOT at the end of next week to discuss the sidewalk grant. Facebook reach is expanding and the City Code of Ordinances are now available online.

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 Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:34 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance suggested for the Council make t-shirts for the PJ Stanley 5k run and 1 mile fun walk.

14. ADJOURN - At 8:41 p.m. Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dale Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff, Administrative Support Clerk

APPROVED OCTOBER 1, 2012