



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 8, 2011

The regular city council meeting of the City of Claremont was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 8, 2011.

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

The following personnel of the City of Claremont were present: 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.

Others in attendance were: Henry Helton, Nathan Huret, Wesley R. Fry, Scott Ramsey, Jerry Peeler, John Cathey, Amy Cathey, Tom Aitken, Robert Winrow, and Glenn Morrison.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Reverend Dr. Gary S. Haddock from Saint Marks Lutheran Church in Claremont. Councilmember Shawn Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow extended his condolences to the Setzer and Hollar families for the loss of Helen Hollar. He mentioned City Manager Doug Barrick couldn't attend the meeting because he had the flu. Mayor Morrow thanked Councilmember Timothy Lowrance for stepping in and conducting January's Council meeting. He stated Nicky Setzer, Shawn Brown, James Stanley and himself attended a National League of Cities Conference in Savannah, Georgia. One topic that was discussed at the conference was long range planning. The budget retreat is scheduled for February 26th.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting - January 3, 2011 and B. Closed Session - January 3, 2011 - City Attorney, Bob Grant suggested that the sentence "Mayor David Morrow was excused from the meeting." to be stricken from the January 3, 2011 City Council regular meeting minutes and the closed session minutes. Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept both the regular meeting minutes and the closed session minutes with the correction made to them. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance.

C. Plaque Presentation - Fire Chief, Gary Sigmon presented Jerry Peeler with a plaque to thank him for his 30 years of service as a volunteer Firefighter for the Claremont Fire Department.

6. PRESENTATION

A. Adopt a Street - Henry Helton spoke about the Adopt a Street program of Keep Catawba County Beautiful. He presented Carolina Coach and Camper, Glenn Morrison and Friends, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, and Claremont Courier with signs to be posted along their street that they have adopted to keep clean.

7. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Works Skid Steer - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, stated the purpose of the skid steer is to help maintain the water and sewer lines. The estimated cost to purchase a skid steer is \$47,203 and he would like to use some money from the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. Tom also mentioned that some additional attachments for the skid steer may be purchased in the future.

Stephanie Corn, Finance Director, stated after the purchase there would be \$258,000 left in the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund.

A motion was made by Councilmember James Stanley to accept the quote for the skid steer and to take the money out of the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Calendar - Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2011 City of Claremont City Council Meeting Dates - Councilmember Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the 2011 City of Claremont City Council Meeting Dates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Fiscal Year 2011 General Fund Budget Transfer - Monies in four separate budget lines have been transferred to cover expenditures.

D. Ordinance 17-10 Police Renovation Project Fund - Transfer \$1,000 from the Police Renovations Fund's balance to the General Fund's balance. This will remove all funds from this account and close this project. Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to accept Ordinance 17-10 Police Renovation Project Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Ordinance 18-10 City Park Enhancement Project Fund - Transfer \$232.26 from the General Fund's balance to the City Park Fund. This will fully fund this fund and close this project ordinance. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance moved to accept Ordinance 18-10 City Park Enhancement Project Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Ordinance 19-10 Rail Spur Project Fund - Transfer \$56,000 from the General Fund Capital Reserve Fund & transfer \$89,690.72 from the General Fund's balance for the total of \$145,690.72 to the Rail Spur Project Fund. This will fully fund from the City of Claremont. Once the City receives the grant reimbursements this fund will be fully funded and closed out. Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to accept Ordinance 19-10 Rail Spur Project Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council - Shawn Brown reported they are waiting to find out the total amount of money that was raised for the fundraiser they had.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported the Claremont Fire Department responded to 327 calls in 2010. Average member response to calls was 9 for the year. Average response time to calls 4 minutes and 9 seconds until the first engine arrived on the scene.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported that crime is up. There were break-ins to several vehicles. He reminded everyone to make sure their vehicles are locked. There was a break-in at Dollar General and a refrigerator unit was stolen from Pierre Foods. After March 1st Ford, Crown Victoria's will no longer be available to order.

James Stanley reported the Claremont Medicine Cabinet will be held on May 7th. The emergency action plan has been revised and is going to be reviewed by the committee before it is presented to the city council. The emergency action plan should be presented to the city council in March's City Council Meeting.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported there was a water leak on Main Street and they will cover the hole that was dug with asphalt as soon as the ground settles which will be about two to three weeks. City Manager, Doug Barrick and Tom Winkler went to the city park and looked at the restrooms. The lights around the restrooms and the heaters inside the restrooms will be replaced. The toilets will be upgraded to commercial tank less toilets and if there is enough money left in the budget they will be putting new gutters and a tin roof on the restrooms.

E. Planning and Zoning - Bob Grant, City Attorney, mentioned there was a sign variance application submitted by Carolina Coach & Camper that will be discussed at the Planning Board's meeting on February 15th.

F. Recreation - Henry Helton reported if they do not get the grant for Francis Sigman Park they will use the money that is in the budget to update the restrooms.

G. Appearance Committee - No further report.

H. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported the wall has been ordered.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

In the Absence of the City Manager, Mayor David Morrow reported the surplus items that were on govdeals.com were sold. The plans for Francis Sigman Park, which was discussed in January's meeting, are moving forward. There is a new Eagle Scout project for the park, which is to relocate the mural to a different location.

12. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:43 p.m. Councilmember Dale Sherrill moved to go into closed session to discuss the economic development client project elevate. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:12 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to reconvene the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURN

At 8:14 p.m. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff, Administrative Support Clerk

APPROVED MARCH 7, 2011