



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 7, 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 March 7, 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, and Public Works Director, Tom Winkler.

Others in attendance were: Henry Helton, Robert Smith, Pastor Michael Tolbert, David Garrison, Rupert Little, Eric Jones, Robert Winrow, Laurie LoCicero, Susan Tucker, Jack Whitener, Jennifer Lowrance, Gene Monday, JP Peeler, Billie Peeler, and John Cathey.

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 Michael Tolbert from Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Claremont. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Morrow reported the budget retreat that was held on February 26th was successful. Our revenues are following in line with the economic conditions. There is a litter sweep in April, as well as, some other events that are planned in the upcoming months.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting - February 8, 2011 – At 8:06 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session - February 8, 2011 - At 8:07 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the closed session meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION

A. Emergency Action Plan – Councilmember James Stanley was asked to revisit the plan when Claremont was hit by a tornado. A committee was formed with the department heads, citizens, and industrial representatives. The committee looked at the old plan and decided to reduce the size of the plan and make it easier to read and understand. The committee recommends resending the code red sign up in the water bills detailing the importance of code red.

B. Claremont Rescue Squad – Eric Jones from the Claremont Rescue Squad reported they have 37 active members and 10 auxiliary members. They ran 58 calls in February and have a response time of 5 minutes 35 seconds. They are having their Pig Pickin' & Poker Run fundraiser on April 16th and they are also having their 30 guns in 30 days raffle ticket sales. All repairs are finished on the Rescue Squad building from the tornado and they have also ordered a medium duty rescue truck.

7. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

John Cathey, 3300 Centennial Blvd. owner of Carolina Coach and Camper requested a sign variance at a separate meeting. He stated people could not see his business because of trees. The sign variance was not approved. Mr. Cathey also stated that his business comes from coast to coast and Canada. He also stated that his customers use Claremont banks as well as other businesses. He thinks the current sign statutes are not adequate.

Mayor David Morrow stated he would like to see drawings and more information. City Attorney Bob Grant gave the council an overview of Carolina Coach and Camper's proposal and why it was denied. He also suggested a text amendment.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 20-10 Water and Sewer Fund Budget Amendment- Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept Ordinance 20-10 Water and Sewer Fund Budget Amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Transfer – Money was moved in both the Fire Department budget and City Administration budget. In the Fire department due to an increase in membership the budgets amount for annual physicals needed to be increased. The Fire Dept has also moved money and will strive to save funds to take advantage of a capital item that was scheduled for next year's budget. They will be purchasing and outfitting Engine 73 with a light tower at a much-reduced rate. City Administration has also moved funds to cover the contributions to the retirement system; this budget line was reduced without cause in the current year's budget.

B. Resolution 30-10 Surplus Property – Councilmember James Stanley moved to accept Resolution 30-10 Surplus Property as proposed. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 31-10 Planning Board Appointments – Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept Resolution 31-10 Planning Board Appointments as proposed. James Stanley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Support of Glenn Morrison and Bunker Hill High School ROTC – Glenn Morrison with Cargo Transportation has put together an event for all area High School ROTC's. Glenn has secured national author Lieutenant Colonel Floyd Sheldon. LTC Sheldon will feature his new book Fundamentals of Leadership and build on his 25 plus year career in the U.S. Army. Mr. Morrison has asked local businesses for a donation to help support this cause. Councilmember Dale Sherrill moved to donate \$500 towards the event. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown reported most of the youth council went to Rising Hope Farm and learned how to work with special needs kids. Each youth is going to volunteer at their time at Rising Hope Farm. Relay for Life has started and they hope to raise \$1200.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported that they were able to get Claremont Elementary to participate in the county wide Fire Quiz Bowl. The Fire Quiz Bowl will take place on March 31st at Tri-City Baptist Church. Claremont Fire Department's pancake breakfast is May 7th. Due to an unfortunate accident some damage to the Fire Department building and one of the engines. They have had two vendors to look at the Fire Truck and the building and hope to have cost estimates on the repairs soon.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported they are investigating the break-ins. There was a \$50 bill that was taken at a local business and it was actually a \$5 bill. Captain Bost and Sgt. Long took a class for evidence property.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported there are some storm drains that need to be repaired.

E. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported the planning board has been busy. The board of adjustment will be hearing a case for a conditional use permit for the parking lot expansion for Collezione Europa.

F. Recreation - Henry Helton reported Susan Tucker will be coordinating some new recreation programs this spring. The committee has made a few changes in the application for Claremont Day. The City will host an Easter Egg Hunt on April 16 at 11 a.m. in the City Park. There will be face painting, lemonade and cookies and an Easter bunny.

G. Appearance Committee - No further report.

H. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported everything is ready for Memorial Day.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Doug Barrick reported there are 1,352 people living in the city limits of Claremont according to the 2010 census report. The city now has a Facebook page. A breakfast for local businesses is being planned for April 12th from 7-9am in the St. Marks Family Life Center. The city is in the process of renewing their waste water treatment plant NPDES permits.

13. ADJOURN

At 8:18 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer 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 APRIL 4, 2011