



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 4, 2011

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 April 4, 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 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, and Public Works Director, Tom Winkler.

Others in attendance were: Henry Helton, Robert Smith, Reverend Ruffin Snow, Rupert Little, Eric Jones, Robert Winrow, Laurie LoCicero, Jason Lowrance, Gene Monday, Jerry Peeler II, Billie Peeler, John Cathey, Amy Cathey, Andrea Ramsey, and Tom Aitken.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the regular Claremont City Council meeting 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. Councilmember Timothy Lowrance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Morrow reported Councilmember's James Stanley and Shawn Brown attended a conference in Washington D.C. Councilmember Shawn Brown has been elected to serve on the National League of Cities Transportation Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee. Mayor Morrow, City Manager Barrick, Chief Tolbert and Captain Bost went to The Children's Advocacy Center to discuss with other officials about declaring April as Child Abuse Awareness month. Mayor Morrow introduced a guest speaker at Claremont Elementary Parent Academy. Kids Only closed and a new child care facility is taking their place. April 12th is the 1st Annual Business breakfast. April 16th is the Easter egg hunt in the city park. Mayor Morrow won't be at the May council meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Budget Retreat Workshop - February 26, 2011 – At 7: 09 p.m. Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept the budget retreat workshop minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting – March 7, 2011 - At 7:09 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to accept the regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Update – City Manager Doug Barrick reported as revenue and expenditure estimates change due to new information on the countywide reevaluation process and state shared revenues as well as potential cost cutting measures, the City budget for Fiscal Year 2012 continues to change. He will be proposing a water and sewer rate increase. He will present the City Manager's proposed budget at May 2nd City Council meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved within the utility fund to cover NCDENR fees and fines. This transfer moves \$4,000 from Engineering Fees to NCDENR fees.

B. Resolution 33-10 Child Abuse Prevention Month – The Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County along with the Children's Protection Council of Catawba County and all eight municipalities to join in proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This proclamation is intended to help raise awareness and pledge support to prevent child abuse and neglect in Catawba County.

At 7:17 p.m. Councilmember James Stanley made a motion to accept Resolution 33-10 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – With recreation report.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported the hydrant servicing is 20% complete and will be completed by the end of April. The repairs to Engine 72 are almost completed. The mason will be at the Fire Department on Tuesday, April 5th to repair the damage to the Fire Department building. He has inspected the new day care that will be opening in Claremont.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported the Ford dealership is going to let them order two more Crown Vic's. Sgt. Long made two arrests and issued a warrant for another suspect in a Larceny case of hanging baskets from Lowes Foods.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported all of public works took a blood born pathogen, CPR and first aid class.

E. Rescue Squad – Assistant Chief Eric Jones reported the rescue squad’s district is 51 square miles. Their annual Pig Pickin and Poker Run is Saturday, April 16th.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the City of Claremont operates a utility system that includes two water receiving vaults, two 300,000 gallon elevated storage tanks, five sewer pump stations, two waste water treatment plants, and roughly 25 miles of sewer and water lines. The two treatment plants are permitted to handle 400,000 gallons of waste water per day with 300,000 allocated to the McLin Creek plant and 100,000 to the North plant. The City of Claremont purchases all of its water from the City of Conover and contracts the operation of the waste water treatment plants with the City of Hickory.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported Linda Shell is in her final stages of inspections and she hope to open the day care soon.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported the Youth Council is doing a Relay for Life fundraiser to raise money. Robyn Hovis the owner of O’Cup Beans and Bakery is the newest member of the Recreation Committee. He also stated the Youth Council wants to have an event in the park on Friday, May 13th for teenagers. The details are still being discussed.

I. Appearance Committee - No further report.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported there are 34 names to go on the Veterans Memorial wall and the cutoff date is April 25th. The wall will be in place by May 30th.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Doug Barrick reported the Easter Egg Hunt is April 16th at 11 a.m. Edward Jones is moving into the building across from the Post Office. The Business Breakfast is April 12th at 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. and it is drop in style. The spring issue of the Claremont Connect is available. Catawba County is second in the state for recycling.

11. CLOSED SESION – At 8:04 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to go into closed session. James Stanley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:45 p.m. Councilmember Dale Sherrill made a motion to reconvene the regular session of the City Council meeting. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURN - At 8:45 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer 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 6, 2011