



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, May 2, 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 May 2, 2011.

The following members of the Claremont City Council were present: 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: Vanessa Kelly, Henry Helton, Laurie LoCicero, Robert Smith, Marty Wilson, Robert Winrow, Garrick Butts, Jason Lowrance, Jennifer Lowrance, Billie Peeler, Eric Jones, Andrea Ramsey, Stephanie Berkowitz, Cody McRee, Laura Elmore, Zack Howard, Derek Stevens, Colby Jones, Kristen Johnson, Hailey Hildebran.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance called the regular Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Dennis Richards from First Baptist Church in Claremont. Councilmember James Stanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – April 4, 2011 – Councilmember James Stanley moved to accept April's regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session Meeting – April 4, 2011 - Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept the closed session meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dale Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Joint Session Meeting Between City Council and Planning Board – April 4, 2011 – Councilmember James Stanley moved to accept the joint session minutes as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None.

7. PRESENTATION

A. North Carolina Rural Water Association – Fiscal 2012 Water & Sewer Rate Study

Vanessa Kelly stated once the debt payments are paid off hopefully the money that was spent paying the debts can be used for annual depreciation. In order to split the costs between customer classes, they reviewed the number of gallons used annually. This resulted in 44.8% of the costs allocated to residential customers and 55.2% to commercial customers. With the base charges and volumetric rates as proposed, water rates would help offset the under recovery seen for sewer service which has a much higher debt service and operational expense. Also there are fewer sewer customers to spread out additional cost. With all combined, a total of \$24,023.12 was projected to be under-recovered. The proposed rate determinations do not include other sources of revenue such as tap and hydrant fees which are projected to collect about \$25,000.

B. Fiscal Year 2012 Manager's Recommended Budget – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the general fund spending is down by 5.8% from last year. Two-thirds of the money comes from property tax. The budget book has more information about services and organizations. It also has specific goals and initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012. Some of the goals and initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012 are 2 new police cars, replace some fire hose the Fire Department, street and street sign inventory, new street signs, new website, increase business interaction and participation, in house fire and safety inspections, increased training, electronic payments at City Hall, a 3% raise pool for full time employees, and increased partnerships. There will be an increase in rates, fees, and capacity fees for water and sewer. There will be a Public Hearing on June 2nd and the proposed budget is available at City Hall and on the City's website.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the Police Department budget to cover part time salaries due to a higher than normal full time vacations and in service training during the fiscal year. Funds have also been moved in the Fire Department budget to cover retirement payments, this transfer is a result of insufficient funds in the original budget. The final transfer this month covers electricity bills in the Water and Sewer fund, this line was also under funded in the current year's budget.

B. Approve A Memorandum Understanding With Catawba County To Administer Voluntary Agricultural Districts Within The Claremont City Limits and Extra Territorial Planning Jurisdiction – This is a voluntary program for agriculture, horticulture, and farm type property owners to help promote and preserve our farming activities.

Councilmember Shawn Brown made a motion to accept the memorandum understanding with Catawba County as presented. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance 20-10 Rail Spur Project Fund – This ordinance will transfer a total of \$152.96 to the Rail Spur Project Fund from the General Fund and close this project ordinance. The additional transfer is needed to cover the difference in the NCDOT Rail Grant for this fund.

At 7:43 p.m. Councilmember Dale Sherrill made a motion to approve the Ordinance 20-10 Rail Spur Project Fund as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Ordinance 21-10 General Fund Insurance Revenue – Recognize \$20,893.31 as revenue from the NCLM Property and Liability Insurance Settlement in the General Fund Revenues and increase Fire Department Building and Grounds by \$6,540.10 and increase Fire Department Maintenance of Vehicles by \$14,353.21. This amendment funds these lines to cover the costs of the recent Fire Department accident.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to approve the Ordinance 21-10 General Fund Insurance Revenue as presented. Councilmember James Stanley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approve An Agreement With The WPCOG For Planning Assistance For Fiscal Year 2012 – This agreement is for technical planning assistance with Western Piedmont Council of Governments for Fiscal Year 2012. The City of Claremont has a long-standing relationship with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for planning assistance and this agreement will renew that relationship for next fiscal year. This agreement provides a planner to hold office hours from noon to five on Mondays at the Claremont City Hall and provide all staff support to the Planning Board and City Council as well as access to all WCPOG planning and GIS staff for City of Claremont needs. The City of Claremont would agree to compensate the WPCOG \$26,500, which is \$1,500 higher than last year's contract to account for higher fuel costs and additional planning services.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to approve the agreement with Western Piedmont Council of Governments for planning assistance as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Proclamation For The Observance Of National Police Week For The Week Of May 9th – 15th – The Congress of the United States of America has declared the week of May 9th – 15th as National Police week and dedicated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. In order to honor the men and women of the Claremont Police Department for their unwavering service to the community and their desire to protect our wellbeing against violence this resolution will declare that the City of Claremont does commemorate our officers for their duty and service to the City.

Councilmember James Stanley made a motion to approve the proclamation for the observance of National Police Week for the week of May 9th – 15th as presented. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown reported the youth will be at the June Council meeting.

Susan Tucker stated the youth helped with the Easter egg hunt and they are preparing for Relay for Life, which is June 3rd and 4th. Anyone can donate for the event.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported the call volume has dropped, repairs to the Fire Department building are completed and all fire hydrants have been serviced.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported there was an armed robbery at the Chinese restaurant in Claremont. He reminded everyone of the events taking place on Saturday in Claremont. There has been larceny of fuel from vehicles and 22 hours out of 24 hours of in service training has been completed.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, thanked the City Council for the Bobcat. Tom Winkler stated a maintenance worker is now licensed to spray weed killer. He also stated there is an old tree in Claremont City Park that need to be replaced.

E. Rescue Squad – Assistant Chief Eric Jones thanked the City Council for helping with the Pig Pickin'. Their new truck has been picked up and they will let the Council see it when it is ready. Their generator is up and running now.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported there are no issues with the water quality. He also reported we have received the NPDES permits. They are still working on the North Plant flow issues.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported there were three zoning permits issued in April. On April 15th two board members attended a Board of Adjustment Workshop in Montreat, NC.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported this Saturday is the Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Department, the Medicine Cabinet at the Police Department, city wide yard sale, and household hazardous waste drop off. The Tailgate Market is scheduled to begin June 10th at 3 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot. Henry Helton mentioned charging each vendor a fee to sale their produce but the Council did not agree with that. There will be no fee charged to the vendors.

I. Appearance Committee - No further report.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported there are 44 names to go on the Veterans Memorial wall. There are two new flags on the flag pole. Everything is ready for the Memorial Day celebration.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Doug Barrick stated the Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, as well as, household hazardous waste drop off, city wide yard sale and the medicine cabinet. The budget is available to anyone wants to see it. The rail road crossing's main lines through the city are being repaired.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance stated Engine 73 has a new light tower installed on it.

The Council was challenged to help out at the Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Department on Saturday.

12. ADJOURN - At 8:19 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 JUNE 6, 2011