



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, June 6, 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 June 6, 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: Kelley Downy, Robert Winrow, Henry Helton, Keith Simmons, Robert Smith, Rupert Little, Abbie Setzer, DB Setzer, Selina Setzer, Dale Setzer, Judy Setzer, Jason Lowrance, Jennifer Lowrance, Lindsy Dellinger, Hannah Dellinger, Ron Dellinger, Lesa Dellinger, Susan Tucker, Dona Cowan, Suzanne Cowan, Andrea Ramsey, Jack Whitener, Billie Peeler, Jason Crooks, and Eric Jones.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Jerry Teague from First Baptist Church in Claremont. Councilmember Shawn Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow thanked Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance for conducting May's Council meeting. Mayor Morrow toured the maintenance facility on May 4th. He is impressed with the careful spending that the City has done. He also likes the bunk beds that he saw at the maintenance facility. Mayor Morrow thanked everyone who was a part of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Mayor Morrow let Councilmember James Stanley speak about Operation Medicine Cabinet.

Councilmember James Stanley stated the Operation Medicine Cabinet took in 38 lbs. of medicine throughout Catawba County. Councilmember Stanley stated Claremont took in 10 lbs. of medicine and there is a possibility of the Claremont Police Department becoming a drop off location for medicine throughout the year.

Mayor Morrow stated May 16th there was a guest author in town, Lieutenant Colonel Floyd Sheldon, he was sponsored by Cargo transporters. There was also a great turn out at the Memorial Day ceremony.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – May 2, 2011 – Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept May's regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Kelley Downy – Edward Jones (New Business) – 3332 East Main Street, Claremont – Mr. Downy stated he wants to get involved in the community and anyone may stop by Edward Jones and talk to him.

Keith Simmons – 3169 North Lookout Street, Claremont – Mr. Simmons stated he lives one block away from the intersection of North Look out and Centennial, he has seen several people run the stop sign at the intersection and he also has seen a wreck there due to someone running the stop sign. He would like a caution light put up there.

Mayor Morrow instructed City Manager Barrick to call DOT and discuss the issue with them.

7. PRESENTATION

A. Claremont Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown stated the Youth Council did some volunteer work at Rising Hope Farm, they helped with the Easter egg hunt, and participated in the Relay For Life. Councilmember Brown presented gift cards to Lindsay Dellinger, Suzanna Cowan, Josh Miller, Katie Carpenter, Clara Ervin, Allie Setzer and Abbie Setzer for their hard work.

B. Claremont Rescue Squad – Chief Jason Crooks thanked Eric Jones and Billy Peeler for attending past City Council meetings in his absence. Eric Jones showed a slideshow presentation of the Rescue base and vehicles that they use. Jason Crooks presented a pin to James Stanley and Keith Simmons for 25 years of service as a member of the Rescue Squad.

C. RESOLUTION # 35-10 - A resolution honoring Pastor Stanley Stiver for 31 years of service to the City of Claremont.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to open the public hearing. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

No one came forth to discuss the budget.

At 7:38 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to close the public hearing. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the City Council budget to cover salaries and various expenses related to the Veterans Monument and email services. Money has also been moved in the Administration Budget to advance the purchase of a server for City Hall. The Police budget was changed to cover fuel costs and retirement contributions. The Fire Department budget was revised to cover fuel costs and overages in the repairs to the station. Money was also moved in Public Works to cover rising fuel costs. The Water and Sewer fund was revised to cover NCDENR fees, postage and water bond principal payments.

B. Ordinance 22-10 City of Claremont Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 – North Carolina General Statutes require the City adopt a budget no later than June 30th of each calendar year for the coming fiscal year.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 holds the tax rate at \$0.46 tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation for the sixth year in a row. As required, the City has published a revenue neutral rate following the countywide property tax revaluation. The proposed rate is lower than the revenue natural rate of \$.4625 of tax \$100 of valuation. The proposed budget totals \$2,815,357, which represents a decrease of 5.8% from fiscal year 2011. The proposed budget does recommend an increase in water and sewer rates and capacity fees for new water and sewer customers.

City Manager Barrick stated the bank fee should be \$5.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember James Stanley to accept the Fiscal Year 2012 budget as presented with the correction of the bank fee changed to \$5.00. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance 23-10 Economic Development Project Fund – In order to account for the equipment lease and related payments for the economic development agreement with Pierre Foods the City of Claremont needs to establish a project ordinance. This project will span multiple years and will not have an impact on the general fund for the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to approve the Ordinance 23-10 Economic Development Project Fund as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Jennifer Lowrance reported the Youth Council did craft baskets to raise money for the Relay for Life event. Five members of the Youth Council stayed up all night during the Relay for Life event. The estimated total that was raised for the event is \$1,260.

Susan Tucker reported she is looking to replace the senior's that were members of the Youth Council due to them graduating.

Councilmember Shawn Brown thanked Jennifer Lowrance for her hard work in the Relay for Life event.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported fire hose testing has been completed. He thanked Brian Helms and Jason Lowrance for overseeing the fire hose testing.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported several officers were tied up in a murder investigation. The new cars should be in by the first of July.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, gave City Manager Doug Barrick the credit for the fuel saving lawn mowers. Public Works worked hard at the bottom of Oak Street and they were able to open up a storm drain that hasn't been opened in a long time.

E. Rescue Squad – Report was given with their presentation.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported he has been meeting with NCDENR extensively to review system progress. City Manager Barrick stated he is working with two new businesses for water and sewer taps. Also he is working with NC Public Water Supply on construction permits for Baker Street. There are no big issues at the McClin Creek plant.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported the Planning Board is proposing a high rise sign district. It's going to be any parcel within three hundred feet of the interstate and the maximum height is sixty feet and a one and fifty square foot sign radius there are more stipulations in the proposal that are still being tweaked. She will be contacting some of the businesses in the area to let them have input at the June 13th Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board is also planning to allow electronic message board signs but with some stipulations.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported he had lots of paint that was dropped off at the Hazardous waste event that took place on May 7th. The cedar tree has been cut down and removed from the park. Mr. Helton would like to stretch the citywide yard sale down Main Street next year. Friday, June 10th will be the first ever Tailgate Market.

I. Appearance Committee – Councilmember James Stanley reported the yard of the month will be starting soon. Councilmember Stanley stated the planters in the downtown area need some sort of colorful plant in them. He also reported the appearance committee is taking quotes on trimming trees and bushes at the I-40 interchange.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported the Memorial Day celebration went well and he hopes the names will be on the second wall by Veterans Day.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Doug Barrick thanked the City Council and the department heads for their participation in the planning of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget. The latest Claremont Connect went out in the water bills and it has information about the new water and sewer rates on it. The County's Senior Morning Out is now being held at United Methodist Church in Claremont. City Manager Barrick also

reported he is working on a truck route for Claremont. He also reported maintenance is going to weed eat heavily on the I-40 interchange and there will be two new flower beds planted there too. The sign ordinance goes for approval on June 13th and will be brought to the City Council on July 5th. City Manager Barrick gave thanks to Administrative Support Clerk Mandy Buff for designing the Tailgate Market logo that will be used in advertising for the Tailgate Market. William-Sonoma will be operational by the third week in June. They have added 200,000 square feet of manufacturing, 200,000 square feet of distribution and 100,000 square feet of office space. He reported City Hall will be getting a new server. City Manager Barrick spoke about the Economic Development agreement with Pierre Foods. They are starting to break ground on their new sewage pre-treatment process at their facility which will help our utility system as we move forward. They look to be operational sometime in November. There has been an increase in Claremont's economic development. City Manager Barrick thanked the City Council for allowing him to apply to the Leadership Academy. He was accepted to the academy and he also received a scholarship.

13. CLOSED SESSION - At 8:18 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:16 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to change the July 11th's City Council meeting to July 6th due to several people that will be absent. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURN - At 9:19 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem 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 JULY 12, 2011