



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 5, 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 Tuesday, July 5, 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: Laurie LoCicero, Scott Ramsey, Henry Helton, Billie Peeler, Eric Jones, John Cathey and Amy Cathey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Craig Schultz from Bethel Lutheran Church in Claremont. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported he attended the Senior Breakfast that is held monthly. He also was the guest speaker at the Senior Breakfast. He mentioned the success of the Tailgate Market and how it continues to grow. Mayor Morrow read a letter from Peggy Miller that thanked the person who came up with the idea of the Tailgate Market.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – June 6, 2011 – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept June's regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session – June 6, 2011 – Councilmember Dale Sherrill moved to accept June's close session minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Second Closed Session – June 6, 2011 – The vote to accept the closed session minutes was moved to the Council Meeting in August.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

No citizen spoke.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:09 p.m. Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss text amendment TA 11-01 Signs. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – This is the text amendment that we all have been talking about for the past two or three months. Basically the planning board has presented you a draft and we have created a high rise sign overlay district. The draft that they presented to the Council is the maximum height of a high rise sign is 80 feet, the maximum area is 150 square feet. There can only be one sign per business and must be at least 10 feet away from any lot line. The sign itself must be located within 350 feet of the Interstate 40 right away and 150 feet away from another high rise sign. The Planning Board originally proposed a maximum height of 60 feet but input from local business owners made them reconsider the height limitation.

Mayor David Morrow – Thank you Lori and thanks to the Planning Board. I know these folks have worked diligently to give us this outline. We're trying to be fair to your business neighbors. That's why we have to have the restrictions. We want to grow and in order to do that we've got to have adequate signing. Thank you. Are there any questions from the public about the sign ordinance?

City Manager Doug Barrick – For clarification at the planning board level there was discussion about the actual distance within the parcel. Is that what this code still reads? The sign would be within that 350 feet interstate right away.

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – Doug is correct. It is to keep people from putting a sign further away from the interstate than what the Planning Board or City Council had intended when they undertook this amendment.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill – Lori, I read there is a 150 feet between signs. Does that mean there can be more than one sign on a parcel?

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – It's one sign per business. The Planning Board went back and forth on whether it should be one sign per parcel or one sign per business.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill – So there could be two businesses on one parcel and they both can have a sign as long as the signs are 150 feet apart.

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – Someone like Mr. Cathey who owns three parcels couldn't have three high rise signs on three parcels. If someone comes in with a complex of several businesses on

one parcel then we could work with them so they could get enough representation. That's something we would have to undertake at that time.

Mayor David Morrow – Is there any questions from the public?

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – We also decided to incorporate some language to go with the sign ordinance to allow for electronic message boards. The highlights of electronic message boards are:

- Must meet all dimensional requirements for ground-mounted signs
- May only use 50% of sign area for electronic message area
- Message must remain static for 20 seconds
- Must not cast light on neighboring property or street
- May be used on high rise sign
- The message cannot flash, scroll or flutter when changing message

Mayor David Morrow – Lori, if a business owner needs a copy of this or has any questions they can contact City Hall or you?

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – Yes, I am in the office on Monday afternoons.

City Attorney Bob Grant – Is the dimensional requirements for the ground-mounted signs to be distinguished from high rise signs?

City Planner Laurie LoCicero – The ground-sign would include the high rise sign.

At 7:18 p.m. Councilmember Shawn Brown made a motion to close the public hearing and go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James Stanley. The motion passed unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the FY 2011 Budget to cover various year end expenses and short line items on the original budget.

B. Approve a Contract with Bowman, Pegg & Starr CPA's For the FY 2011 Audit – North Carolina General Statutes require that the City Council select and approve a Certified Public accountant as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year to audit all accounts. The auditor shall be selected by and shall report directly to the governing board.

The staff has worked with Bowman, Pegg & Starr C.P.A's for the past five fiscal years and recommends them to provide the audit services for the FY 2011 budget accounts. The staff also recommends allowing Bowman, Pegg & Starr C.P.A's to perform a Certified Annual Report (CAFR) to along with the audit. The CAFR will provide much needed financial information to the City, its Citizens and our business partners.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill made a motion to approve the contract with Bowman, Pegg & Starr C.P.A's as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approve Text Amendment TA 11-01 Signs - The Planning Board has recommended the following two changes to the Claremont Sign Ordinance.

High rise sign overlay district:

- Maximum height - 80 ft.
- Maximum area - 150 sq. ft.
- High rise sign must be located within 350 feet of I-40 right-of-way
- One high rise sign per business
- Must be located at least 150 feet from another high rise sign

Electronic message boards:

- Must meet all dimensional requirements for ground-mounted signs
- May only use 50% of sign area for electronic message area
- Message must remain static for 20 seconds
- Must not cast light on neighboring property or street
- May be used on high rise sign

A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to approve text amendment TA 11-01 with the change that a high rise sign pursuant to 9-3-58 shall be a ground mounted sign. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Approve Resolution 11-01 Personnel Policy Update on Holiday Time – In order to be fair and equitable in the compensation for our shift personnel that are work holidays these changes to the Claremont Personnel Policy will ensure that all Full Time employees are compensated for the Official Claremont Holiday's.

A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to approve resolution 11-01 Personnel Policy Update on holiday time with the sentence "When any recognized holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be the designated holiday." to be removed from the policy. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown read a thank you card from Susan Cowan. City Manager Doug Barrick stated Susan Tucker has guidelines for upcoming youth projects.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, reported they have completed 12 business inspections, 3 pre-plans and 5 fire prevention programs. There were 263 adults and 297 children that attended the fire prevention programs.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, reported officers are investigating two B & E's to vehicles which occurred in the parking lot at Hickory Spring. Officers made an arrest for DWI and escape and elude. Cpt. Bost and Sgt. Long are investigating the use of a counterfeit bill turned in by

BB&T. Sgt. Cozzen and Sgt. Stamey attended a two day class in Edneyville for background investigations.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, stated they installed a water and sewer tap for William-Sonoma. They also installed sewer rain caps. He also mentioned that lines are being painted and should be done by 8:00 p.m.

E. Rescue Squad – Billie Peeler stated the rescue truck isn't ready yet. Rescue convention is coming up and 30 Guns 30 Days is still continuing. Rescue had 73 calls with an average response time of 5 minutes and 45 seconds. They're having a family meal September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported maintenance will be upgrading a two inch water line to a six inch water line and adding a fire hydrant on Baker Street. We've received the first round of funding from Golden Leaf so Pierre Foods can purchase equipment for their pretreatment facility. The north plant's average has gone back up over 100,000 gallons. He is still working with and Tom Winkler and the City of Hickory to find out why it keeps going up.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported she met with Terry Foxx who is the National Flood of Insurance Program Planner and he showed an iPad with technology that had the flood planes on it.

City Manager Doug Barrick stated that Claremont was one of eight cities to participant in a Federal pilot program that puts all the GIS information onto the iPad which allows you to be able to drive around the city and have all the GIS information on each property in the city at your finger tips.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported the Tailgate Market is getting bigger. The Committee would like to put a reserve sign at the picnic shelters when they are reserved. Claremont Day applications will be mailed next week. There are three floats left for the parade. The committee also discussed the idea of putting a drinking fountain at the City Park.

I. Appearance Committee – Councilmember James Stanley reported they had five yards of the month. The Committee sent a letter to White Oak Court praising them for yards looking nice.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee - Henry Helton reported the stone man has the list of names and when one of his people is going to be in the area they will drop by and add the rest of the names to the Memorial. Hopefully the second wall will be done by Veterans Day which is November 11th.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Doug Barrick stated two ladies from Keep Catawba Beautiful and The Masters Gardner Club of Catawba County donated time and supplies to make the sign at the park entrance look better. They will come back once a week to check on the sign and to keep weeds out. William-Sonoma is up and running. He thanked Gary Sigmon for all the time he spent at William-Sonoma helping them to get up and running. The water and sewer bill that will go out in August will have the new rates on it. He met with DOT to discuss the issue at the intersection of North Lookout and Centennial Blvd. and DOT is going to see if that intersection meets their criteria for a traffic light or an advanced warning light. City Manager Barrick proposed to DOT if the intersection doesn't meet their criteria could they possibly put a

flashing red light on top of the stop signs. A drain was installed at Poppelman's Plastics and the road has been remarked. He requested that Laurie LoCicero, City Planner, make sure the businesses are keeping up with their signs. He encouraged anyone to call City Hall if anyone sees high grass. The Catawba County Economic Development Corporation will be holding their annual luncheon on July 20th at 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the convention center in Hickory. The City will have its first financial review on everything from the past ten years. He asked the Department Heads to review the personnel policy to make sure that the policy is up to date. There are new plants in the pots that are located in the downtown area. City Manager Barrick reminded Council that he will be out of town next week attending the Public Leadership Academy at Chapel Hill.

13. CLOSED SESSION - At 8:02 p.m. Councilmember James Stanley moved to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:01 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURN - At 9:02 p.m. Councilmember James Stanley moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Mandy D. Buff, Administrative Support Clerk

APPROVED AUGUST 1, 2011