



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 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 Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

The following members of the Claremont City Council were present: Mayor David Morrow, Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance, Councilmember Shawn Brown, Councilmember Nicky Setzer and Councilmember Dale Sherrill. Councilmember James Stanley was absent from the meeting due to him being deployed by the American Red Cross to help out at the North Carolina coast due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Irene.

The following personnel of the City of Claremont were present: City Manager, Doug Barrick, City Attorney, Bob Grant, Administrative Support Clerk, Mandy Buff, Finance Officer, Stephanie Corn, 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, Ryan Smith, Gene Monday, Eric Jones, Rev. Don Bledsoe, Scott Ramsey, Allen Long, Hannah Elliott, Stacey Isenhour, Abbey Moose, Kelli Hambright, Greg Hambright, Frank Myers, Joe Hall.

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 Reverend Don W. Bledsoe from Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Newton. Councilmember Dale Sherrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Morrow reported on August 25th Rock Barn held a fundraising Golf Tournament to benefit those who had lost during the Joplin tornado. The City of Claremont represented a team and made a donation. The fundraiser raised \$11,400. Plans have been solidified for the first annual Mayor's planning breakfast. The breakfast is planned for August 15th. The Mayor, City Manager Barrick and two members from the Western Piedmont Council of Government will be meeting to discuss what the City could face in the next three to five years and some long-term strategies. Plans are also being made for the paving of I-40 and the rerouting the trucks. The Mayor thanked those who have expressed their condolences for the passing of his mother.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – August 1, 2011 – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the minutes from the August meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session – August 1, 2011 – Councilmember Dale Sherrill moved to accept August closed session minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None

7. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor David Morrow presented an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Captain Gary Bost. The Mayor also presented Sergeant Allen Long with an Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate.

A. People to People- Student Ambassador's Program – Abbey Moose thanked the City Council for the donation that helped fund her trip to Europe. She spoke briefly about her trip.

B. Troop 903 Eagle Scout Project Proposal – Mayor Morrow stated Kevin Cline, a member of Troop 903 First Presbyterian Church in Newton, met with the Veterans committee to discuss additional landscaping at the Veterans Memorial. Kevin Cline's idea that he presented to the Committee is landscaping along the sidewalks up to the memorial. Kevin Cline and his troop will maintain the upkeep of the additional landscaping.

Kevin Cline stated he plans on contacting Nursery's for pricing on greenery. He plans on working on this project on the weekends. He has to have his Eagle Board approve the project before he can start on it.

C. Claremont Optimist Club – Stephanie Turner, Secretary and Treasurer for the Optimist Club, expressed her concern about a letter that the Claremont Optimist Club had received requesting information on what activities the Claremont Optimist has been conducting. City Attorney Bob Grant informed Mrs. Turner the reason the City wants to know their activities is because the City is trying to get grant money to improve Francis Sigman Park and the Grant application asks for the usage information. Also the city has had a request to use the park for various activities from people outside of Claremont.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Claremont Business Park Phase II – A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to endorse concept #4 that was presented to the Council at the August Council meeting. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 03-11 Tenth Anniversary of Sept 11th – A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept Resolution 03-11. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 04-11 Surplus Property – A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept Resolution 04-11. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 05-11 – A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to accept Ordinance 05-11 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Economic Development Agreement – Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply – A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to hold a public hearing for the Economic Development Agreement with Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply at the next meeting. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Councilmember Shawn Brown reported the Youth Council will have their first meeting on Sunday. Susan Tucker is leading the Youth Council this year. They will be sending as many youth that is interested to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Youth Summit, which is in October. They intend on swearing in the Youth Council members at the October meeting.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, stated they have been busy with the storms that have come through Claremont. The month of October will be busy with Fire Prevention and Community Activities. Chief Sigmon and Captain Wendy Helms have been accepted into a probationary fire inspection level 3 which should be completed within the next year. Draka is the only level 3 in the city.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, stated Sgt. Cozzen, Cpl. Buff and Pam Shook came out perfect on their DCI audit. Captain Gray Bost explained what DCI is and how important it is to the Claremont Police department. Chief Tolbert reported an investigation is being conducted on a stolen vehicle and some stolen pipes from Setzer's greenhouse. Officers are also investigating a case of larceny by employee at Fast Tracks and they made an arrest for possession of marijuana and one for DWI.

D. Public Works - Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported gates are being put up on the sewer right of ways to restrict access and a total of 1500 feet of sewer line has been jetted and 9 man holes have been cleaned and washed. They are moving forward on the water fountain for the park.

E. Rescue Squad – Ryan Smith reported their truck is done; they are waiting on the radios to get patched. They had their second early bird for the 30 guns 30 days. They are having their fall dinner Thursday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. and invited everyone to join them.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported they have continued to work with AdvancedPierre Foods on the installation of a new pretreatment facility at their location. The project should be completed late October or early November. They have been working with Davis & Flyod Engineers to evaluate the flow issues at the North WWTP, including securing them to install and monitor three flow meters for the month of September. The 2010 Annual Waste Water Report is available online on the City's website. The North plant received a new flow meter, new bar and chain in the sludge settlement tank and new aerator in the old aeration basin. The Western Piedmont Council of Government is almost done with the data collection on the City's GPS mapping update. They are GPSing all of our water and sewer features so we'll have an accurate understanding of where everything is.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Manager Doug Barrick reported there were four building permits in August, approved one CUP for expansion at Claremont Automotive, and finalized the building and landscaping zoning issues at Draka and Progressive as a result of the tornado. Progressive is back in their original facility. City Manager Barrick has been working with Laurie on the sign ordinance and making sure the businesses are keeping their signs up to code.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported on September 18th in the Council Chambers a local photographer will show his photographs of his trip to Antarctica. On the first Saturday in November there will be a citywide yard sale. The Regional Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Committee will meet in Claremont on November 15th and December 3rd is Claremont's Christmas Parade. The Recreation Committee would like to change their name to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

I. Appearance Committee – City Manager Doug Barrick stated that Councilmember Stanley is at the Eastern part of North Carolina with the American Red Cross helping out with the Hurricane Irene disaster. City Manager Barrick reported the committee will be having their pumpkin carving contest on October 27th. The pumpkins need to be dropped off at Pinocchio's and they can be picked up later on that week.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance stated the Welcome to Claremont sign on Catawba Street needs to be replaced.

City Manager Barrick stated that he had requested a quote from Echno signs on how much it would cost to replace the Welcome to Claremont sign on Catawba Street.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee – Henry Helton reported there are 56 names on the first wall and so far he has 18 names to be put on the second wall. The cutoff date for the second wall is October 21st. The wall will be in place for the Veterans Day ceremony.

Mayor Morrow asked Henry to inform Foothills Monument that the first wall is leaning.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick reported Claremont Day is October 1st, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Also Rising Hope Farms is having a festival on Saturday, September 17th 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sheer Bliss will have their ribbon cutting ceremony on September 14th at 1:00 p.m. The citizen handbook has been updated and the emergency action has been added to it. City Manager Barrick will meet with DOT on September 15th to outline the truck route. Information has been gathered from factories on their truck traffic for the meeting with DOT. City Manager Barrick has requested for a meeting with the project manager that is over the I-40 repaving project to see about getting two traffic signs to go at both ends of Centennial Blvd. The paving will start toward the end of September and will take one year to complete. City Manager Barrick has been working with the EDC on an available properties brochure.

12. CLOSED SESSION - At 9:07 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance 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 9:57 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.

13. ADJOURN - At 9:58 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance 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 AUGUST 1, 2011