



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, October 3, 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 Monday, October 3, 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 passed away on September 21, 2011.

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, Public Works Director, Tom Winkler, and Garrick Butts.

Others in attendance were: Henry Helton, Rose Ann Pannell, Adam Pannell, Greg Pannell, Robert Winrow, Rupert Little, Robert Smith, Joe Tate, Laurie LoCicero, DB Setzer, Selina Setzer, Abbie Setzer, Allie Setzer, Eddie Barringer, Caroline Franklin, Lisa Treadaway, Autumn Edwards, Gene Monday, Sue Jones, Andrea Ramsey, Scott Howard, Stacey Ledbetter, Nathan Sherrill, Ryan Smith, Matthew Benfield, Clara Fervin, Jennifer Lowrance, Leah Martin, and Kemp Sigmon.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Morrow stated Councilmember James Stanley passed away after a short battle with leukemia.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Mayor David Morrow. Councilmember Nicky Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported on September 14th the city staff, council, and members of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce joined Donna Reese in the ribbon cutting for Sheer Bliss Hair Salon. Mayor Morrow thanked the fire department and police department for helping out at Rising Hope Farm's annual fall festival. On September 27th Mayor David Morrow, Councilmember Dale Sherrill, Councilmember

Shawn Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance, and Councilmember Nicky Setzer attended the Council of Government meeting in Conover. On September 30th Councilmember Shawn Brown, Mayor David Morrow, Jan Morrow and City Manager Doug Barrick fed the Bunker Hill High School football team and band. Mayor Morrow also reported Claremont Day was a success.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

B. Closed Session – September 6, 2011 – Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to accept September's closed session minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

None

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Swearing in of the 2011-2012 Claremont Youth Council – Mayor Morrow introduced each youth council member and swore in the members with the assistance of Susan Tucker. Members of the Youth Council include: Clara Ervin, Matthew Benfield, Autumn Edwards, Katelynn Patterson, Caroline Franklin, Stacey Ledbetter, Abbie Setzer, Allie Setzer, and Nathan Sherrill.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to open a public hearing to discuss the ED Agreement between the City of Claremont and Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. ED Agreement Claremont & Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply – City Manager Doug Barrick stated the Economic Development agreement provides for a \$5,000 streetscape grant which would help Claremont Hardware and Farm Supply enhance their streetscape along South Depot. They have begun that process by repainting the building, laying the stone work around the building and by cutting in some new windows. It also provides for some tax incentives based on employment and longevity at that piece of property and up keeping the property value. We are pleased to have them as a business partner in the community and also an employer in the community as well.

Mayor David Morrow stated the land and building is a critical part of the downtown and Claremont. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion with regards to the Economic Development agreement.

At 7:18 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to close the public hearing. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:18 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to open a public hearing to discuss rezoning 11-2 Claremont Hardware. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Rezoning 11-2 Claremont Hardware – Laurie LoCicero, City Planner, stated the rezoning 11-2 is for the Claremont Hardware and Farm Supply parcels that are located at 4843, 4859, 4848 and 4860 South Depot Street. We want to rezone the properties from B-1 central business to M-1 manufacturing. The reason the city staff initiated this rezoning was because Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply approached us and said they would like to do outside storage of things like mulch, sand and other large landscaping items. In 2005 we did the big update to the zoning ordinance and in B-1 central business and in the other business zones we no longer allowed outdoor storage. Due to Claremont Wholesale being there prior they were grandfathered in. The planning board basically had three options: to do a rezoning, to do a text amendment to allow outdoor storage in any of Claremont's commercial district, or to do a text amendment to allow outdoor storage with a conditional use permit. It was discussed at two different planning board meetings. The two text amendment options were discussed and the planning board did not feel they were the best options for the city. The planning board decided that rezoning the properties would be the best for the city. At the planning board's September 12th meeting they took a vote on recommending the rezoning of the properties and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill asked if the storage is only for the parcels located at 4859 and 4843 South Depot Street.

Laurie LoCicero stated the last time she had spoke with the owners the storage was only to be on the parcels located at 4859 and 4843 South Depot Street. They will have to put up a fence and a buffer on the two mentioned parcels to comply with the zoning ordinance.

City Manager Doug Barrick stated the owner of Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply is present to speak. The owners do plan on utilizing some outdoor storage on the parcel located at 4860 South Depot Street.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer asked if they were planning on using the back part of the parcel located at 4859 South Depot Street.

City Manager Doug Barrick stated they weren't going to use the back part of the property for storage at this time only the front part located along south Depot Street.

Leah Martin from Conover stated Greg Pannell has his house within 100 feet of the mentioned parcels and he received the letter of the proposed re-zoning and asked her about it. Her biggest concern is the precedence that it sets. Their request is to leave out of the rezoning the back part of the property located at 4859 S. Depot St.

Eddie Barringer stated his uncle and father started Claremont Wholesale in 1956. He worked there for nearly 40 years. His observation is several years ago Claremont didn't have any zoning. All that the city does to enhance Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply is good thing. When all the different businesses are mixed together it seems to make a well rounded Main Street business community. He has observed in Claremont that Main Street business community is getting up and leaving and moving to North Oxford. He supports the rezoning of Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply.

At 7:33 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to close the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Morrow spoke about the brochure that promotes Claremont's international business park.

City Manager Barrick stated there is a new water fountain in the park. The Department of Transportation has agreed to install two signs for I-40 at Centennial Blvd. and US Hwy 70 and 2 I-40 and Us 70 straight ahead signs at Centennial Blvd. and Lookout St. and a new Industrial Park sign to turn onto Kelly Blvd. if you're coming up Bethany Church Rd. DOT will also put a new sign at Centennial Blvd. and Oxford for a straight ahead arrow for downtown, a straight ahead arrow for US 70 West and a left pointing arrow for US 70 east. There will also be a new sign at main and Oxford with a left pointing arrow for downtown and a right pointing arrow for the industrial park. DOT will put the signs up and monitor the traffic if it doesn't get better then they will look at restricting truck traffic.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Honoring Councilmember Stanley – Councilmember Brown suggested a scholarship for an area high school student that wants to go through E.M.T school or B.L.E.T. Mitchell Community College B.L.E.T. students want to do a 5k run on Claremont Day to help raise money. Rising Hope Farms is considering doing an event to honor Councilmember Stanley.

B. Resolution 06-11 Fire Prevention Week 2011 - A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to accept Resolution 06-11 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 07-11 Parks & Recreation Committee – A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept Resolution 07-11 as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution 08-11 NCLM Voting Members 2011 – A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to accept Resolution 08-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution 09-11 Surplus Property - A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to accept Resolution 09-11 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. ED Agreement Claremont & Claremont Hardware & Farm Supply - A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept the ED Agreement as presented. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Ordinance 10-11 Rezoning 11-2 Claremont Hardware - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept Ordinance 10-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. November 7, 2011 City Council Meeting Location - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to have November 7, 2011 Council meeting in the training room at the Claremont Police Department. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Susan Tucker stated there are several that are interested in attending the youth summit in Raleigh. The youth have some plans for parade day and for Easter.

B. Fire Department - Gary Sigmon, Fire Chief, thanked the Mayor and Council for the resolution for Fire Prevention week. The Fire Prevention Office performed 2 programs this month, installed 5 smoke detectors, replaced 2 smoke detector batteries and performed 1 child safety seat inspection.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, stated Officers made 3 arrests for shop lifting, 1 at Fast Tracks and 2 at Dollar General. An officer saw a suspicious vehicle at Rock Tenn and after the officer pursued the vehicle it wrecked in Conover.

D. Public Works – Mayor Morrow thanked the Public Works employees for their work on getting ready for Claremont Day.

Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported the public works staff was trained and certified on sign installation and placement for the MUTCD standard. All main sewer lines in Rachel's Vineyard have been jetted and cleaned for a total of 2,648 feet & cleaned out 11 man holes.

E. Rescue Squad – Eric Jones stated 15 members attended the state rescue convention. The drawings for the 30 guns in 30 days drawing will begin next month. Next year's pig pick'n and poker run is going to be the PJ Stanley's poker ride.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported no issues from the plants to report. They are continuing to work with AdvancePierre Foods on the installation of a new pretreatment facility at their location. They also worked with Davis & Floyd Engineers to evaluate the flow issues at the North WWTP.

G. Planning and Zoning – Laurie LoCicero, City Planner, reported had one applicant for a high rise sign.

H. Recreation - Henry Helton reported the committee is looking into disc golf as a possibility for Francis Sigman Park and the city park. All of the Christmas parade floats have been assigned. Eighty eight vendors signed up for Claremont Day and only four didn't show up on Claremont Day. The city wide yard sale and hazardous waste collection is on November 5th.

I. Appearance Committee – City Manager Doug Barrick reported there will be pumpkin carving contest at Pinnocchio's on October 30th. Pumpkins can be dropped off at Pinnocchio's no later than October 27th.

J. Veterans Memorial Committee – Henry Helton reported he met with the monument man and the 2nd wall is ready to be put up.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to combine the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Veteran's Memorial Committee after Veteran's Day. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick thanked Jason and Jennifer Lowrance for the Pink Heals Tour coming to Claremont. New decorations are being ordered for Christmas and December 19th is the judging for yard of the month. Claremont employees are playing the Town of Maiden in a softball game on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Morrow is throwing the first pitch. The city will be working on repairing the sidewalks in the upcoming months. The North Carolina State University Arm of Institute of Transportation Research & Education did a pavement condition survey for the city. They went out and looked at all 9.6 miles of city owned right away and compiled a report for the priority listing of pavement repair and pavement repair methods for all the streets we own. Giving detailed information on how to go about fixing issues and they also stated the condition that each street is in. A full report will be given at the November Council meeting. Plans are being made for the second annual Claremont business breakfast in early November. The Claremont Optimist Club is having their fall flea market at Francis Sigman Park on October 8th.

Mayor David Morrow stated that the first annual Mayor's planning was planned for October 15th but it has been postponed until after the elections.

13. ADJOURN - At 8:40 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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2011