



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, November 7, 2011

The regular City Council meeting of the City of Claremont was held in the Training Room at the Claremont Police Department at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 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.

The following personnel of the City of Claremont were present: City Manager, Doug Barrick, City Attorney, Bob Grant, Finance Officer, Stephanie Corn, Police Chief, Gerald Tolbert, Police Captain, Gary Bost, Public Works Director, Tom Winkler.

Others in attendance were: Robert Smith, Joe Tate, John Lentz, Robert Winrow, Rev. Colleen Samson, Dale Setzer, Judy Setzer, Rupert Little, Jeff Barkley, James Hannah, Becky Hannah, Jason Lowrance, Jennifer Lowrance, DB Setzer, Andrea Ramsey, Jennifer Yount, Brenda Stanley, and Gene Monday.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Reverend Colleen Samson. Councilmember Shawn Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported that the City of Claremont played in the 1st annual City of Claremont vs the Town of Maiden Softball Game, a great time was had by all and we are looking forward to the beginnings of an annual tradition between the two towns. The Mayor also noted that City officials attended the grand opening of the Conover Station facility, which will be home to the future Western North Carolina Passenger Rail Station. The Mayor also spoke at a Gang Reduction Call in meeting in Hickory as a part of the Unifor Gang Reduction Grant. He spoke to a group of 25 high risk youth and advised them of the dangerous decisions they are making in their lives. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 28th for the Claremont Hardware and Farm Supply at which the City presented a check for \$5,000 as a part of its EDC Streetscape Enhancement Grant. The Mayor also spoke on November 1st to the third graders at Claremont Elementary about his role as Mayor and the duties of City staff and of the City. This was in conjunction with their studies on local government. He also noted that the City Wide Yard Sale held for the first time in

the fall this year on November 5th was a huge success. The Mayor then read thank you letters from the Bunker Hill Football Team and Marching Band, the Optimist Club and the North Carolina School of Government. The Mayor closed his report by wishing the best of luck to the candidates for City Council in the Election on November 8th.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – October 3, 2011 – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the minutes from the October meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Nobody signed up to speak or spoke during Citizen's Concerns and Comments

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Claremont City Street Inventory Update:

City Manager Doug Barrick reported that the City engaged the Institute of Transportation Research and Education department at North Carolina State University to perform a full engineering survey of the entire City owned and maintained streets. The survey ranks the City streets on 8 variations of engineering standards and gives each street a ranking with one being the worst and 100 being the best. The report ranks the streets based on the ranking and provides the City with a scientific way to approach resurfacing and maintained over the next 3-5 years. The City maintains 9.88 miles of paved streets of which 43.7 % are in very good condition, 13.6% are in good condition, 25.4% are in fair condition, 7.6% are in poor condition, and 9.7% are in very poor condition. According to the report only 1.71 miles of streets would require immediate attention or paving. The good news of the report shows that over 2/3rds of the streets are in good repair and do not require maintenance. The report shows that roughly \$275,000 would be needed to fix every issue that was found on the entire system. The report shows that the City has done a good job with street maintenance and that the City subdivision standards need to be reevaluated to ensure that new streets are built to higher standards. The Manager finished by stating that this report will be used to prioritize the paving list for the coming years.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to open a public hearing to discuss the proposed City of Claremont FOG Ordinance. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor noted that North Carolina General Statutes require that the City Council Hold a Public Hearing prior to any changes in the City Ordinance.

Mayor Morrow noted that as a result of increasing State regulations on sewer collections systems the City of Claremont is proposing to increase the Fats, Oils and Grease Ordinance. This ordinance specifically affects all institutional and commercial food preparation and serving facilities. In doing so it requires that these facilities adequately intercept and retain fats, oils and greases prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer system. While the City's currently sewer use ordinance requires all Food Service Facilities to install grease interceptor it remains vague as to the details of this system and the ongoing maintenance of such systems.

City Manager Doug Barrick stated that the City's goal was to draft an ordinance that would have the least amount of impact to current and future food service establishments but yet met the full requirements of the law and protected the City's infrastructure. He added that the current code does require a grease interceptor at all food service providers, but is vague about the size, maintenance, and inspections of the interceptors. The City at this time does have any problems with the current food service locations but this ordinance will help deal with any future problems and will fulfill the State's requirement of the City to have a FOG Ordinance in place in order to renew its collections system permit.

James Hannah asked how the City will decide in the future if a restaurant is causing a problem and how will the City ensure that people are cleaning out their grease traps.

Doug Barrick stated that the new ordinance will establish maintenance requirements and long term care for all establishments and gives the City authority to clean out and hold the establishments accountable for sewage overflows and backups.

Doug Barrick also stated that the City does not target establishments but rather work with restaurants to ensure that they are following the new ordinance. During the drafting of the ordinance the city inspected all of the existing interceptors and did not find any major issues.

The Mayor added that the outline and detail including in this ordinance will drastically help both the City and Restaurants work together with grease and oil interceptors.

Doug Barrick stated that Cities goal was not force the new regulations on any existing restaurant but rather to work with the existing users to see how to make the existing interceptor work the way it was design through maintenance and upkeep. Only if a restaurant or food service provider got to the point where they were a nuisance or the existing interceptor was very inefficient to handle the current flows, would the City force the new design criteria on and existing restaurant.

James Hannah stated that if anyone has ever had a drain back up into their restaurant they will do everything they can to protect their restaurant and the City system.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill asked if this ordinance would apply to churches

Doug Barrick stated that anyone with a large commercial kitchen such as the churches, school, and fire department.

Councilmember Shawn Brown asked what the inspection process will be moving forward.

Doug Barrick stated that the city will inspect on an annual basis, since the city has 12 targeted inspections for interceptors we would inspect one per month. Prior to beginning any inspections the City will be meeting with the effected restaurants to establish guidelines and help them through the process.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to close the public hearing. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution 10-11 PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship Fund

A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to accept Resolution 10-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 11-11 PJ Stanley Training Room - A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to accept Resolution 11-11 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Ordinance 05-11 Budget Amendment - A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to accept Ordinance 05-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance 06-11 Budget Amendment – A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept Ordinance 06-11 as presented. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Ordinance 07-11 Fats, Oils & Grease Ordinance – A motion was made by Councilmember Shawn Brown to accept Ordinance 07-11 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Budget Transfer – Informational Only

10. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Susan Tucker stated that the Youth Council participated in the Annual NCLM Youth Summit held in Raleigh. Allie Setzer won 2nd place in one of the competitions. The Council members learned about budgets and ideas to continue their involvement with the City. The Council will be assisting the Friends of the Library with treat bags during pictures with Santa following the Christmas parade this year.

B. Fire Department – Captain Jason Lowrance delivered the report for the Fire Department and stated that department responded to 24 calls this month for a total of 253 calls for the year thus far. Average response time has been 3:26 for the month. The department attended a joint training session with Catawba Fire Department. They trained on fire fighter rescue scenarios called R.I.T. training or rapid intervention teams. This training helps rescue downed fire fighters. All hydrants have been flushed and maintained during the month and only two hydrants in the district are out of service and he will be working with Public Works to repair these hydrants. Captain Lowrance will be bringing additional information in regards to the Fire Dept CIP items and ISO rating update.

C. Police Department - Gerald Tolbert, Police Chief, thanked the Mayor for speaking at the recent Gang grant call in meeting. He also noted that Captain Bost attended the National Chief's Conference and Administrative Assistant Pam Shook attended the Southern Software conference. He then introduced

Jennifer Yount who is a CVCC student that will be interning with the Police Department over the next few months. The Chief also showed a quick video taken with one of the new dash cameras in the patrol vehicles.

D. Public Works – Tom Winkler, Public Works Director, reported that he and the City Manager rode all of the sewer lines as required by the state for our permit renewals. He also stated that the Baker Street waterline is now installed and the crews will be working to complete the project in a few weeks.

E. Rescue Squad – Ryan Smith noted that the Rescue Squad ran 54 total calls for the month with 47 being emergency calls and around 800 calls for the year. The squad sold 700 tickets for their 30 guns in 30 days raffle tickets. They are posting gun winners on the website each day.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the Utilities Department is running smoothly over the past two months. He stated that the pretreatment facility at AdvancedPierre Foods will be on line around Thanksgiving. The flow study down at the North Treatment Plant showed some inflow and infiltration, the City will be working with the rural water center to perform some smoke testing to target these areas. The annual water and wastewater system permits have been submitted.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Manager Doug Barrick stated that four zoning permits were approved for the month. He stated that permits are beginning to pick back up. He also stated that the CUP's have been recorded and approved for the Matlock, Claremont Automotive, and Williams & Sonoma.

H. Recreation – Councilmember Tim Lowrance stated that the committee has evaluated Claremont Day and will be making some changes for 2012. They have also been working on the 27th Annual Christmas parade; you can stop by Claremont Automotive and see Danny Hedrick for an entry form. He also stated that the Fall City Wide Yard sale was a huge success. November 11th at 11:00am the Committee will hold a Veterans Memorial Ceremony in the City Park at the Memorial. The PJ Memorial Blood Drive will be held on Monday December 5th at St. Marks Church.

I. Appearance Committee – City Manager Doug Barrick stated that the Committee was looking to purchase three memorial benches to be placed around the City. The benches would memorialize Russell Boggs and PJ Stanley. The committee is also working with the Mural Artist who painted the mural on the Hewitt Building to begin some sketches and ideas for additional murals in the downtown area. They will be bringing some ideas to the Council for approval. The winner of the pumpkin carving contest was Bob Patrick.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick that there will a national test of the emergency alert system will occur on Tuesday November 8th at 2:00 pm. The Manager also noted that the City has installed about a dozen trees around the City to help with the streetscapes and buffering at the City Park. Sidewalks along South Depot have also been replaced during the last month and additional sidewalks will be replaced in the spring. The truck route signs have arrived and will be installed during the month. The new city webpage is not completed and will be launched very soon. A community bulletin board will be placed at the City Park in the near future as a way for the community to post events and information.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Nicky Setzer moved to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

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 9:05 p.m. Councilmember Dale Sherrill moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Douglas L. Barrick,
City Clerk

APPROVED DECEMBER 5, 2011