



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, December 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 Monday, December 5, 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, Councilmember Dale Sherrill and Councilmember Dale Setzer.

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 Garrick Butts.

Others in attendance were: Susan Tucker, Laurie LoCicero, Judy Setzer, David Garrison, Jonathan Garrison, Selena Setzer, Abbie Setzer, Eric Jones, Robert Smith, Tim Turner, Andrea Ramsey, Connie Monday, Reverend Dennis Richards and Scott Ramsey.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Morrow called the Claremont City Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Reverend Dennis Richards from First Baptist Church in Claremont. Councilmember Dale Sherrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Morrow reported at the November 7th council meeting Brenda Stanley was presented with several awards for James Stanley. One of the awards that Brenda Stanley was presented with was the Order of the Long Leaf Pine which is among the most prestigious awards that is given by the Governor. Also on November 7th the PJ Stanley scholarship was passed and the Police dedicated their training room to PJ. On November 8th the local elections was held and Dale Setzer was voted in as a City Councilmember. On November 11th the Veterans Ceremony was held in the city park and the second wall was unveiled. The city employees were honored on November 12th at the city awards banquet. Mayor Morrow thanked everyone that was involved with the Christmas Parade. He also mentioned the blood drive at St. Mark's Lutheran Church for PJ Stanley. Saturday, December 10th will be the first ever planning breakfast.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – November 7, 2011 – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance moved to accept the minutes from the November meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session – November 7, 2011 – Councilmember Shawn Brown moved to accept November's closed session minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

6. OATH OF OFFICE AND SEATING OF CITY COUNCIL

Dale Setzer was recently elected to be on the City Council and was sworn in by City Clerk Doug Barrick. City Clerk Barrick also swore in recently re-elected Councilmember Dale Sherrill and Councilmember Nicky Setzer.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to reappoint Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance as the Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Dale Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to appoint Councilmember Nicky Setzer to the vacant seat on the Appearance Committee. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to appoint Councilmember Dale Sherrill to the vacant seat on the P.J. Stanley Memorial Scholarship Committee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Sherrill to reappoint Councilmember Shawn Brown to the Appearance Committee and to the Parks and Recreation Committee and also to reappoint Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to the Parks and Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nicky Setzer. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Tim Turner stated he is the newly elected president for the Claremont Optimist Club. Mr. Turner thanked the City for the float in the Christmas parade. He showed the Council the sign that was bought with the money that the City donated to them. The sign will hang on the ball field fence at Francis Sigman Park.

8. PRESENTATIONS

A. City of Claremont Fiscal Year 2012 Departmental Updates

Administration is currently working on electronic files for all archived City Council documents, electronic payment options for water & sewer payments, update the city personnel policy and Wi-Fi for the downtown area. All employee evaluations, new Christmas banners, county internet and VOIP phone service has been completed.

The police department isn't going to get the Federal COPS grant. They have completed officer training for one intermediate level and one advanced level state certification. They have changed the mobile data terminal to air cards and installed a server at the police station. They are continuing the transition to 800 MHz radios and the replacement of vehicles has been completed.

The fire department has begun using firehouse sketch and they purchased and implanted new fire pagers. They have completed in house fire inspections and fire hose replacement.

The public works department has not completed management training for lead supervisor. Two public works employees have completed flagman training and they are currently working on updating records for auto & equipment maintenance. They have also completed a sign inventory and all public works employees know how to repair the signs. They completed a pavement condition report on all city streets and are working on replacing street signs.

The water & sewer department has signed on the City of Hickory for ORC duties for water distribution and waste water collection. They have also implemented a full service maintenance contract on the Kelly Boulevard water tank and they increased the maintenance for sewer outfall lines and creek crossings. The replacement dump truck will in use by February. The water line replacement for Baker Street is 80% completed. The root control program will be implemented in the spring.

9. OLD BUSINESS

City Manager Barrick reported Advance Pierre Foods pretreatment process is complete. The City has made their final grant payment and the City will start their lease buy back purchase at the beginning of the year. City Manager Barrick and City Planner Laurie LoCicero will be meeting Advance Pierre to discuss the landscaping they are planning on doing. Advance Pierre plans to start their landscaping in the spring.

Mayor Morrow inquired about the old Mom n Pops building. City Manager Barrick stated the last he had heard was the owners are going to try and sell it.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 12-11 NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant Support – A motion was made by Councilmember Nicky Setzer to accept resolution 12-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 13-11 Surplus Property – A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to accept resolution 13-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 14-11 Western Piedmont Council of Government Delegate – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to designate Councilmember Nicky Setzer to serve as the Council's voting delegate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for the calendar year 2012. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Nicky Setzer made a motion to designate Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance to serve as the Council's alternate voting delegate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for the calendar year 2012. Councilmember Dale Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dale Sherrill made a motion to accept resolution 14-11 as presented. Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Budget Transfer – Monies have been moved in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget to fund the PJ Stanley Memorial Scholarship Fund on behalf of the City.

E. 2012 City Council Meeting Calendar – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made motion to approve the 2012 City Council Meeting Calendar with revisions made as needed. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Council – Youth Council member Abbie Setzer reported the sitting with Santa was successful after the Christmas Parade. The friends of the library helped out by passing out coloring books and candy. The Youth Council is planning on participating in the Relay for Life event and they are going to have another Easter egg hunt. They also are going to help out a Rising Hope Farm.

B. Fire Department – Chief Gary Sigmon reported the Fire Department responded to 22 calls for the month of November. The fire prevention officer performed 3 programs and installed 2 smoke detectors for the month and replaced 10 smoke detector batteries. Twelve Storz adaptors have been placed on hydrants in strategic areas of the City.

C. Police Department – Chief Gerald Tolbert reported officers investigated two calls for shop lifting at Dollar General and they investigated a report of a stolen vehicle from Advance Pierre Foods.

D. Public Works – Lead Supervisor Garrick Butts reported new signs were installed for truck rerouting and an old 2 inch water line was replaced with a 6 inch line on Baker Street. Also they cleaned out the sewer line right of ways.

E. Rescue Squad – Eric Jones reported the 30 guns in 30 days raffle is over and it was a success. He stated they are going to have some exciting and interesting training held at the Rescue Squad in 2012. They had several members that participated in a mutual aid call with St. Stephens Fire Department to retrieve a car that had run off into water at Lake Hickory RV Resort.

F. Utilities Department – City Manager Barrick reported for the third month in a row there hasn't been any violations. He also reported 726 feet of new water line and 10 new service taps have been installed on the Baker Street water line project.

G. Planning and Zoning – City Planner Laurie LoCicero reported the NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant application has been turned in, it was due on December 2nd. There are new Carolina Thread Trail brochures in the pamphlet rack in City Hall.

City Manager Barrick stated William Sonoma will be expanding their parking lot.

H. Parks & Recreation – Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance reported the Christmas Parade was a success and he thanked Danny Hedrick for putting the parade together. There will be no Old Fashion Christmas this year. The committee is starting on Claremont Day for 2012.

I. Appearance Committee – City Manager reported the Appearance did not meet but the judging for the Christmas decorations will be on December 19th.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Doug Barrick reported the City will be working with ESP, LLC and internet providers to begin offering free Wi-Fi access in the downtown area between Lookout and Depot St. and along US 70. This new network will be launched during the first quarter of 2012. The City staff and the Appearance committee will be working this month to begin accepting ideas from two mural artists for a possible second and third mural for the City. The two locations that are being considered for the murals are the County Wide building and the space between the two entrances at City Hall. Once the City secures an artist funding and grants will be looked at. The City staff has been doing some much needed maintenance at Francis Sigman Park. This will allow the City to see what is needed to be ready for spring sports. The City is also finalizing a new lease agreement to send to the Optimist Club. City Manager Barrick also reported all of the entrance signs will be cleaned and have the lights checked over the next week. He stated he will be giving a current year budget update at the next meeting and the City staff and City Manager Barrick will begin working on the FY2013 CIP and preliminary budget this month. The City's auditors will also present the audit from the FY 2011 budget as the January meeting. Also there is a new librarian that will be splitting her time between the Claremont and Conover libraries. On December 10th is the Mayor's Planning Breakfast. City Hall will be closed December 23-27 and January 2nd for the Holidays.

13. CLOSED SESSION – At 8:27 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to go into closed session in reference to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). Councilmember Shawn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:54 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Councilmember Nicky Setzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. ADJOURN - At 8:55 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Lowrance 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 JANUARY 3, 2012