

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

7:00 pm

Sue Gilbert, Vice-Mayor, called the meeting of the Claremont Town Council to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present: Sue Gilbert, Louise Hansch and Tom Kent.

Public Announcements

None

Citizens Comments

None

Correspondence

None

Consent Calendar

- *Tom Kent asked to amend the minutes of the May 6, 2026, Town Council meeting to state that he was in opposition to the letter that was proposed to be mailed to the residents on the sewer system. Louise Hansch then motioned to accept the amended minutes for the May 6, 2026, Town Council meeting, Tom Kent seconded the Motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Tom Kent asked to amend the minutes of the May 28, 2026, Public Hearing for the Proposed Sewer Rate Adjustment to reflect that he had asked if we could look into obtaining a loan or line of credit for the Sewer System. Louise Hansch then motioned to accept the amended minutes for the May 28, 2026, Public Hearing for the Proposed Sewer Rate Adjustment, Tom Kent seconded the Motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Tom Kent motioned to accept the Minutes from the May 28, 2026, Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Sewer Budget, Louise Hansch seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Tom Kent motioned to accept the Minutes from the May 28, 2026, Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Water Budget, Louise Hansch seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Tom Kent motioned to accept the Minutes from the May 28, 2026, Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Town of Claremont Budget, Louise Hansch seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Tom Kent Motioned to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2026, Sue Gilbert seconded the Motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*

Louise introduced Ryan Lucy with Southern Corrosion to go over the proposed contract between them and Claremont Water System for tank maintenance. Louise provided in the past we have not had a company to maintain our water tanks, and maintenance has not taken place. Mr. Lucy provided a background of his work with the company. He proceeded to go over the work that would be performed as well as the cost of the work over the next 10-year period. Tom Kent asked what warranties would be involved with the contract. Mr. Lucy provided that all work they perform would be warrantied. Tom Kent asked how their services would impact our water quality. Mr. Lucy provided that they do not maintain the wells and would not have any impact on the water source. Sue Gilbert asked how they maintain the inside of the tank. Mr. Lucy provided an explanation of the work that would be performed. Mr. Kent asked how the water is handled when they are cleaning the inside of the tank and Mr. Lucy provided that it would be pumped directly to the lines. Louise Hansch provided that she had been informed they could provide a temporary tank, which Mr. Lucy confirmed.

Committee Reports

Zoning Administrator

- Sue Gilbert provided that current property owners, Stephanie Headley, had given the properties in the circle on Mancha Avenue to Rosa Turner and her Indian tribe. In researching this, our zoning administrator, Lee Copeland, has found the Indian tribe is not recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia government. He is now working with our attorney and that we would be taking the property owners of the buildings on Mancha Avenue, inclusive of the former businesses and an additional residence owned by another resident to court. Louise Hansch brought up that the grass behind the former business buildings and the store is high and needs to be cut. Sue provided that we can send letters on that. Tom Kent questioned if the tribe is not recognized then they have no protection by law, which Sue confirmed.

Finance & Budget

- No Updates.

Public Buildings, Streets & Grounds

- Sue Gilbert provided that there will be a Primary Election held at Claremont Town Hall on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.
- Sue Gilbert provided that the library would like to use the building on June 26, 2026, from 2:30 – 4:30 for a magic show.

Water and Sewer Department

- Louise Hansch provided the VFD's(Variable Frequency Drives) should be shipped around June 16, and once they arrive installation should happen quickly after. The change order for the globe valves is being written up, and we should receive that for Daryl's signature hopefully by this Friday. Louise provided that we still have funds available in our reserve money and we should not have to use the loan. She then provided that she had contacted Greg Arrington regarding the chlorine level and he had George Edwards go and turn that down. Now that well four has been cleaned and chlorinated, Greg is getting good MPNs(Most Probable Number) on that and we are hoping that once all of the piping has been done in the new building which is being done at the same time as the VFDs, that we can come off chlorine within the next 3-4 weeks. Tom Kent asked why the pressure relief valves had not been installed yet. Louise provided that WACO wanted to do all of the work at one time and be done instead of multiple trips.
- Sue Gilbert provided that she had met with Rob and Alex from VRWA(Virginia Rural Water Association) at the sewer plant to determine the issue with the drain fields. They would like us to have the second pump installed, which we need to order, and have an electrician on hand when they continue to work with cameras to determine the issue. At this time only half of the drain fields are working, and they found water in the valves. Tom Kent asked how close to the end of the line the last valve was located, Sue provided that is undetermined at this time. She also provided that at this time we do not have the as-built plans for the sewer system and only have the engineer plans which were not followed at the time of construction. Mr. Kent asked if John Warick at VDH(Virginia Department of Health) could help with that, and it was provided that no that would be the Surry Health Department.

Parks & Recreation

- Tom Kent provided that the tall ships should be sailing upriver the next day, which would be a momentous event to be viewed from the river. He plans to take pictures using his drone.

Emergency Services

- No update.

Planning Commission

- No update.

Board of Zoning Appeals

- Sue Gilbert provided that the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold their annual meeting on June 23,2026 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall and will be voting on their officers at that time.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- *Louise Hansch motioned that we pass the Sewer Rate Adjustment which doubles the bill to the new rate of \$159.96 per month, Tom Kent seconded the motion with the request that he be able to meet with Primis Bank to discuss the possibility of obtaining a loan for the Sewer System, all Aye vote, Motion carried 6/10/2026.*
- *Louise Hansch motioned that we pass the Sewer Budget for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$88,307.92, Tom Kent seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Louise Hansch motioned that we pass the Water Budget for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$224,193.92, Tom Kent seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Louise Hansch motioned that we pass the Town Budget for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$123,550.00, Tom Kent seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*
- *Louise Hansch motioned that we hire Southern Corrosion to maintain our water tanks. The first year will cost \$12,634.00 and has already been included in the Water's budget for next year, Tom Kent seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*

NEW BUSINESS

- *Tom Kent read a proposed motion regarding how letters to residents should be handled in the future. Louise Hansch suggested that we have our attorney, Richard Matthews, review the proposed motion and that we vote on it at the meeting on July 1, 2026.*
- *Sue Gilbert provided that she had met with the historical society regarding a historical sign. Smallwood College was an African American College that was located near Claremont Manor Property. The Cultural Trail would like to install a sign regarding this. It has been proposed that they place the sign at Claremont Park along the edge of the road where it can be easily viewed and read. It cannot be placed near the Manor because there is nowhere to turn around at that location. Surry County is paying for the sign and David Harrison the acting County administrator would like something in writing from us that we approve the placement of the sign. Sue Gilbert motioned that we accept the sign to be erected at the new playground, Louise Hansch seconded the motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026.*

Adjournment

- *Tom Kent Motioned to adjourn, Louise Hansch seconded the Motion, all Aye vote, Motion carried on 6/10/2026, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted

Laura Crowder, Town Clerk