

Town Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2018
5:30PM

Present: Mayor Mike Fanning
Bill Brandenburg, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Freda H. Trupiano, Town Clerk
Kayla F. Risher, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Mike Fanning welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Council Member Milt Felder who passed away last week. Mayor Fanning then provided the invocation. After the Invocation Mayor Fanning asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order

Mayor Mike Fanning called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

I. Special Guests

At this time Mayor Fanning recognized special guests from Ellore First Baptist Church Youth Group who volunteered their time and energy assisting with the cleanup of The Holman Parking Lot. Mayor Mike Fanning supervised the group volunteering on a Saturday morning. The Town of Ellore provided a dumpster. Four out of the eight member group were in attendance and the Mayor recognized each of them and presented them with a certificate of appreciation. Certificates for those not in attendance will be given out by the group's ambassador at an upcoming church meeting.

Mr. Dave Durgin, Director Natural Gas Division, City of Orangeburg, DPU was not in attendance; however, Mayor Fanning read Mr. Durgin's message to the Town of Ellore. Key points were highlighted and it was announced that gas is ready to be sold. Interested customers may sign up at the DPU office in Orangeburg, SC.

II. Business of the Month Recognition

The Business of the Month is R&L Tire. They were unable to attend the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

Council Member Harold Void made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from January 8, 2018. Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

IV. Elloree Water Department Report

Ms. Cole Dantzler of the Elloree Water System presented the report. The Elloree Water System had 104 work orders for the month of January and 645 customers were billed. December's estimated water loss was 12%. Waste Water Plant had no violations with SCDHEC and the water Bacti samples were in compliance. The next meeting for the Elloree Water System will be February 13, 2018 @ 6:00PM.

V. Public Comments, Concerns, Information or Recommendations to Council

Ms. Claudette Pauling spoke to Council concerning recreation and transportation within the Town of Elloree.

VI. Police Report

Chief Shawn Murphree presented the January 2018 Police Report.

There were 52 calls for service and 36 citations:

- a. 7 assistance with other agencies
- b. 10 Alarm Calls
- c. 2 Shoplifting
- d. 17 business escorts
- e. 7 assist other agencies
- f. 2 Animal Complaints
- g. 3 Trespass Calls
- h. 1 Accident

- i. 2 Disorderly Conduct
- j. 1 loud music complaint
- k. 3 Forgery Calls (1 arrest and 2 warrants pending)
- l. 3 Domestic Calls
- m. 1 Armed Robbery and Kidnapping
- n. 12-Seatbelt
- o. 1 Littering
- p. 4 Truck Route
- q. 9 Thoughtless Operations
- r. 2 Driving Under Suspension
- s. 1 No SCDL
- t. 3 Expired Tags
- u. 1 Trespass after Notice
- v. 1 Giving False Information

Chief Murphree thanked the following agencies for responding to our armed robbery:

Santee Police

Eutawville Police

Holly Hill Police

Calhoun County Sheriffs

Orangeburg County Sheriffs and their K-9 Tracking Unit and Crime Scene Unit

SC Highway Patrol

SC State Transport Police

He discussed details surrounding the armed robbery at the Family Dollar. In less than 30 minutes, 22 police officers responded to the Town of Ellore. This is due to the Ellore Police Department also assisting other agencies when called upon. They maintain a good working relationship with our neighboring agencies.

Chief Murphree thanked Assistant Chief Earl Kinley for his prompt response to the Family Dollar Store and for preservation of the crime scene.

Chief Murphree thanked Lt. Austin Arant for assisting with the investigation on his day off.

Chief Murphree also expressed appreciation for community involvement in apprehending the individual in question. A tip was called in from a concerned

resident who had actually spotted the individual in question. That tip was another reason the subject was apprehended so promptly. Less than 40 minutes passed from the time of the 911 call until the subject was in custody.

Chief Murphree stated that the Ellore Police Department was prepared to exhaust all means possible to catch the individual who came to our community to rob the store.

Assistant Chief Earl Kinley contacted the SCDOT after receiving several complaints about log trucks and 18-wheelers operating illegally in town. SCDOT dispatched an officer to ensure the vehicles are operating legally.

Lt. Austin Arant has applied for the 10-33 Military Surplus Program which will allow the Town to obtain military equipment and generators free of charge.

The two old Crown Vic Police cars have been sold and the spare car is in the process of being painted.

The next Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting is March 6, 2018 at 6:30pm

Chief Murphree then answered questions from the Mayor and Council concerning the robbery.

VII. **Clerk's Report**

Town Clerk Freda Trupiano presented Mayor Fanning and Council with the financial report for the Month of January. Council Member Harold Void made a motion to accept the financial report for the month of January and Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ms. Trupiano stated that Court Report for the month of January will be presented at the next council meeting due to the absence of the clerk of court. Next court date will be February 26, 2018 at 4:30PM.

Freda Trupiano presented the Trash to Treasures Update. See attached

VIII. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fanning gave an update on the different departments of the town. After one month, He thanked everyone for working so well together.

Police Department

Positive comments were given to the Police Department for their high visibility around town and their good working relationship with other agencies.

Town Hall

The town hall staff has worked to bring accounts and other issues current. It was determined that the town had been paying health insurance on a former employee for three years which has cost thousands of dollars.

Residents

Mayor Fanning thanked the residents for helping clean up the town. Ms. Daisy Pauling has provided years of service in keeping the town hall and public restrooms clean and stocked. Mayor Fanning referred to her as our “hospitality person”.

Mayor Fanning stated the upcoming events are a great way to showcase the Town of Elloree. Preparations are being made to clean, sweep, and repair key streets. He encouraged everyone to participate in support of these events. Ads have been placed in the newspapers for Trash to Treasures and The Elloree Trials.

IX. Old Business

Mayor Fanning stated that the renovations on Town Hall have been completed with the exception of the Mayor’s office. Bids are currently being accepted.

The Mayor reported that the audit is still in process; however, per Murdaugh and Associates, it should be completed and ready for presentation at the next council meeting.

Mayor Fanning spoke about the Town Policy for postponing or cancelling a Town event due to inclement weather. Council Member Brandenburg made a recommendation that if an event is postponed due to inclement weather that it automatically be rescheduled for the following weekend. He also recommended that this be reflected in any event flyers. He then made it in form of a motion. Council Member Void seconded the motion. It carried since there were three present.

X. New Business

- Contract with Public Defenders Group-discussed. Further information regarding eligibility and types of cases that are appointed the public defender

is needed before entering the agreement. This will be added to next month's agenda

- Notice of Public Election- has opened for Council Member Felder's seat. It will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. See attached notice of Ellore Special Election.

Mayor Fanning spoke about the Town Policy for postponing or cancelling a Town event due to inclement weather. Mayor Fanning stated that this will be placed on the agenda for next month to discuss options.

Mayor Fanning stated the Town of Ellore Event Schedule for 2018 will be available at the next Council Meeting.

XI. **Executive Session**

Mayor Fanning requested executive session to discuss either disciplinary or termination of an employee. Council Member Void made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Council Member Brandenburg and this began at 6:11 pm.

The session convened at 6:43 pm after a motion made by Council Member Void and seconded by Council Member Brandenburg.

The decision was made to release the employee.

XII. **Adjournment**

Council Member Bill Brandenburg made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Council Member Harold Void and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted
Freda Trupiano
Town Clerk/Treasurer