

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Michael Fanning, Council Member
James V. Fogle, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Larry McDowell, General Manager, Elloree Water System
Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer
John D. Singh, Town Administrator

I. Call to Order

Mayor Van Stickles called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Harold Void provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2009 meeting as written. Councilman Jimmy Fogle seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Van Stickles recognized Andrew and Edwina Friedman, two residents who recently opened a new business in town, The Antique Box. The shop sells antiques, collectibles, and homemade candles.

Mayor Stickles issued a proclamation recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Chairman Jack Lane of the Citizens Advisory Committee presented their report for the first quarter of 2009. The Committee nominated and approved Chris Carver and Michelle Felkel as new members.

He reported that the committee plans to seek money from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund and the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities funds for the baseball field on Harlin Street.

Chairman Lane stressed the importance of volunteers to help make the town a better place to live. The Committee plans to work in conjunction with the Ellore Garden Club to clean up around the old Ellore Gym, which currently houses the Boys and Girls Club.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2008 at 5:30pm at the Town Hall. It is open to the public.

V. Water Commission Report

Ellore Water Commission General Manager presented the monthly report to the council and the minutes of the Water Commission's March 10, 2009 meeting.

He said the system completed 38 work orders and billed 645 customers during March.

The system billed 351 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 19%, up from 14% in February.

There were no violations for the water or wastewater facilities from the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

VI. Police Report

Chief Preston Avinger delivered the report from the Police Department, noting that the Police Department responded to 19 requests for service during the month of March and arrested 12 individuals.

Incidents including arrests are as follows:

- 2 Arrests for possession of Cocaine
- 4 Arrests for Simple Possession of Marijuana

- 2 Arrests for outstanding bench warrants
- 2 Arrests for Public Disorderly Conduct
- 1 Arrest of a wanted person
- 1 Arrest for Unlawfully Carry of a Hand Gun

Other reportable and non-reportable incidents include:

- 4 False alarm calls
- 1 Suspicious person call
- 1 Disturbance Call at the Backstreet bar and Grill after the Trials
- 1 Call in reference to a domestic issue
- Seizure of \$917.00 during a cocaine arrest

The Police Department also conducted 51 traffic stops and issued 40 Uniform Traffic Tickets.

Chief Avinger presented the Mayor and Council with a breakdown of the ticket fines and revenue for the first quarter of the year.

- Total Fines Collected: \$15,882.50
- Remitted to State: \$8,259.53
- Victims Assistance Fund: \$781.46
- Retained by Police: \$6,841.51

He also presented council with a breakdown of requested expenditures for the first quarter revenue.

- Pre-Approved Expenditures: \$1,779.35
- Ellore Heritage Museum: \$100.00
- Flavor Masters Catering: \$294.25
- Craig's Firearm Supply: \$964.20
- Nicholson Business Systems: \$1200.00
- Ellore Garden Club: \$400.00
- Evergreen Garden Club: \$200.00
- Galls: \$400.00
- Pork Fest: \$1503.71

Chief Avinger also thanked the Mayor for the proclamation for National Child Abuse Month and informed those attending that the Police department has informational brochures available about the topic.

He also reported that the Police Department hosted a Chiefs Meeting at the Ellore Heritage Museum which included the Sheriffs Department and representatives of seven municipalities.

He thanked the Mayor and his wife Linda for providing food for the event, Clerk Chasity Canaday for organizing the event, and the Museum for providing the location.

VII. Administrator Report

Town Administrator John Singh informed the Mayor and Council that changing accounting systems is still in a transitional phase. He assured council that the process will be completed in May because the budget for the new fiscal year will be loaded into the new system.

Administrator Singh also reported that the Town had a microburst on April 6, 2009 that resulted in damage to the Ellore Gin. The event was reported to the National Weather Service. He thanked SCDOT and Orangeburg Emergency Services for quickly responding.

Singh reminded attendees that the town will host Pork Fest at Joe Miller Park on April 17 & 18. Anything But Pork will be held on Friday night from 6:00-7:30pm, with music from the Just Whalin Band from 6:00-9:00pm. The barbeque cook-off, which currently features ten teams, will be held on Saturday from 11:00-12:30 with music from the Sugarloaf Mountain Boys from 10:30-1:00pm.

Clerk Canaday also reminded attendees that the Pork Fest pigs will be up for auction during the event, decorated by local businesses, civic organizations, and individuals.

Mayor Stickles thanked the Pythian Sisters for hosting the Easter egg hunt at Joe Miller Park on Sunday, April 5 and for the work they do for the Town.

Singh reported that he participated in Career Day at Ellore Elementary School.

The Administrator updated the Mayor and Council about the status of cuts to Aid to Subdivisions that are expected to come down over the next year. He added that the Town should be prepared for the changes that will come with those cuts in funding.

The Administrator added that the Ellore Trials were again a successful event for the Town and noted that there were no major issues with traffic or problems. Mayor Stickles thanked Orangeburg County for providing dumpsters for the event and for cleaning up on Harlin Street leading out to the racetrack.

He noted that the heating and air units have been installed at the Boys and Girls Club. Now they are working on installing exhaust fans in the gym and get the Club reopened.

VIII. Old Business

Singh presented the council with Ordinance 01-02-03-09: Recodification of General and Permanent Ordinances for the Town of Ellore. The ordinance will serve as the preface for all of the town's new ordinances, which will be broken down into eleven sections. Councilman Fogle made a motion to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor and the third and final reading passed.

Singh also presented Ordinance 11-1-02-03-09: Code of Ordinances for the Town of Ellore Regulations Related to Temporary Structures, Specifically the Use of Portable Containers. This ordinance will put regulations in place for the placement and usage of portable storage containers, including portable on-demand (POD) containers, shipping containers, construction containers, and tractor trailer containers. There was a minor change to section H of the ordinance, which applies to emergency situations. A public hearing was held on March 24 at 5:30pm.

Councilman Fanning asked about the effect of the ordinance on new construction, which was addressed by Administrator Singh.

Councilman Butler made a motion to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance and was seconded by Councilman Void. Third and final reading was approved.

IX. New Business

The first issue addressed was approval of the police revenue and expenditures for the first quarter of 2009. Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the requested expenditures in the amount of \$5,062.16 and was seconded by Councilman Butler. The motion was approved.

Administrator Singh noted that the Town has received notification that the Department of Transportation plans to install sidewalks on Harlin Street from Highway Six to the town limits and on Browning Road from Highway 6 to

Shadowfield Apartments. Singh estimates that the project will begin in the next 3-6 months.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to accept the proposal from SCDOT and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor.

Administrator Singh presented the Mayor and Council with the proposed ordinance to regulate burning within the town limits. There were three options presented.

- Ban burning of yard trash with the exception of contained structures in residential settings such as outdoor fire places, grills, barrels properly maintained for preparing wood for a BBQ. All material burned in these settings would need to be natural wood. (No construction debris)
- Allow burning with a permit in the town and develop an educational sheet on proper and safe burning. The permit is also conditional that there are no adjacent neighbors with respiratory issues that would be harmed.
- Allow burning by permit with specific lot size criteria.

Penalties for failure to follow the town ordinance would be a \$250.00 fine plus all applicable state surcharges or 30 days in jail.

Mayor Stickles noted that the issue is one that concerns many residents and recommended that the council hold a workshop on the issue as well as a public hearing.

Councilman Butler made a motion to approve first reading of the ordinance by title only. Councilman Fanning seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Administrator Singh announced that Dr. Walter Hutto will hold his annual rabies clinic on Thursday, April 21, 2009 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Old Fire Station.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Fanning seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer