

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, April 5, 2010

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Michael Fanning, Council Member
Jimmy Fogle, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Mike Fanning provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting as written. Councilman Harold Void seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

The Mayor recognized Claudette Pauling, who addressed Town Council regarding sanitation service. She asked if there are funds and grants available for additional yard trash services and park services. She also asked if there was a possibility of hiring teenagers for summer work.

V. Water Commission Report

Elloree Water System General Manager Larry McDowell delivered the council report for the Water System, providing the Mayor and Council with monthly reports from March.

The Water System completed 41 work orders and billed 650 water customers during the month of March. They also billed 350 garbage customers on behalf of the Town. Estimated water loss was 17%, down from the 18% in January.

All water and wastewaters facilities are in compliance with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Valve replacement began on March 1, 2010 and is being done by Carolina Tap and Valve. Fifteen valves and four fire hydrants have been replaced so far. McDowell noted that customers may experience water discoloration during the process but there should only be minor outages.

Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

VI. Police Report

A joint report for February/March was presented at the meeting by Chief Preston Avinger, with the following information for action taken:

- **29 Requests for Service**
- **23 Arrests**
- **4 Arrests for Simple Possession of Marijuana**
- **8 Arrests for Open Container**
- **4 Arrests for Minors in Possession of Beer**
- **2 Arrests for DUI**
- **4 Arrests for Subjects wanted on Outstanding Warrants**
- **1 Arrest for Shoplifting**

Other reportable and non-reportable incidents:

- **4 False alarm calls**
- **2 Burglaries**
- **9 calls to assist SC Bank and Trust**
- **3 Traffic Accidents**
- **6 Requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies**

The Police Department requested the SC Highway Patrol DUI Enforcement Team for the third weekend in March. During that time the team made over 10 DUI arrests in or near the town limits.

Clerk Canaday presented the Police Fines Report for the month of March, showing the following totals:

- **Total Fines Collected: \$5435.38**

- **Remitted to State Treasurer: \$2386.68**
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$202.37**
- **Revenue Retained by Town: \$2846.33**

Clerk Canaday also presented the Mayor and Council with an expenditure request for police fines revenue generated during this budget year, which will be addressed in Old Business.

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

The Clerk presented the March 2010 financial reports for the Town, with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month. The Clerk noted that she will be meeting with the Town's auditor and the Mayor to review reports and make budget adjustments due to the new accounting system.

The Clerk also reminded the Mayor and Council that their annual Statement of Economic Interests reports are due to the State Ethics Commission no later than April 15.

Clerk Canaday noted that the Town partnered with the Mentor Book Club to host Story Time at the Mentor Branch Library on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in recognition of Read Across America Day. Volunteer readers included Mayor Van Stickle, Linda Stickle, Municipal Judge Frank Quattlebaum, County Councilman Johnny Ravenell, and Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, who all read Dr. Seuss books.

Trash to Treasures was held on March 6 and generated a great deal of activity throughout town, including numerous yard sales and special sales. She also added that the Mayor and his company Flavor Masters raised \$500.00 at Trash to Treasures for the town's Relay for Life team.

The Clerk also noted that the Ellore Trials were held on March 20, bringing thousands of visitors into the town. Pork Fest will be held on April 9 & 10 at Joe Miller Park, with proceeds benefiting local beautification projects. There will be cook-offs and live entertainment during both days.

Clerk Canaday added that a Rabies Clinic will be held on April 20, 2010 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Helmly Brothers Ace Hardware. The Town's Relay for Life team will compete in the Orangeburg County Relay on April 23rd, and the team is still collecting donations throughout town.

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its annual Operation Inasmuch on April 24 to clean up Loyns Park and Cleveland Street. The Police Department will hold their

annual service day on the same day to encourage other individuals, businesses, and civic groups to participate. Lunch will be provided by the Police Department.

Clerk Canaday also offered an update on the ongoing census. Anyone who receives their mail at their home should have received a form by now. If not, they need to contact the Census Bureau. Census forms will not be mailed to post office boxes so those people will be counted in person during census visits.

VIII. Old Business

Clerk Canaday presented the Mayor and Town Council with an expenditure request for police fines collected during the month of March 2010. The Clerk requested that \$2,846.33 collected in March be used to offset the \$5,618.91 paid out of the General Fund for a Streetscape loan closing in January. \$642.72 was approved for reimbursement in February and \$846.91 in March.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the Clerk's request. Councilman Butler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Clerk noted that this leaves a remaining balance of \$1,282.95 remaining for reimbursement to the General Fund that will be address in upcoming months.

Clerk Canaday presented the Mayor and Council with information regarding several concerns with the town's garbage service. The town currently bills its customers \$7.94 per month for weekly garbage pick-up, which is the amount that contracted service actually costs the town. However, there has been a difference in the amount billed and the amount collected each month for some period of time, and it appears that there is a large number of garbage carts that are being picked up but not being billed, with the majority of those cans located outside of the town limits.

The Town currently contracts with Suburban Disposal for garbage collection services and has an ordinance that makes garbage service mandatory for water customers within the city limits. However, they will also currently provide service up to half mile outside of town for water customers.

Council discussed several options to eliminate the revenue shortfall, which comes out of the General Fund. Clerk Canaday added that a can audit was conducted and that she is working with both Suburban Disposal and the Water Department to make sure that cans are only in billed locations. She noted that she has not received a copy from Suburban. The company was informed of the meeting but did not attend.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to discontinue out of town garbage collection and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor. The Mayor and Council agreed to notify current out of town customers that service will end at the end of the month.

Councilman Fanning also made a motion to forward the current garbage collection service contract with Suburban Disposal to the town attorney for review and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

IX. New Business

Councilman Mike Fanning presented information about ongoing work at the Town's baseball field. The field is being cleared and a backstop is being designed to make the field playable. Bases have been marked, and the old fencing has been removed. The Town plans to begin working immediately to clear the old fenceline and get pricing on a replacement fence.

The Mayor and Council discussed ongoing issues with yard trash service and opened the floor to public comments from Claudette Pauling, Holley Geiger, and Andrew Friedman. Clerk Chasity Canaday noted that, with increasing budget and staffing restraints, the Town needs to evaluate priorities for the Streets and Parks department. The issue will be discussed further at the May council meeting.

Mayor Stickles issued a proclamation recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, citing a need for increased public awareness. The Police Department has brochures available with additional information about the subject.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2010.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 6:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk