

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, August 11, 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, Ellore Water System
Joseph P. Avinger, Chief of Police
Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Barbara Butler provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting as written. Councilman Harold Void seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Van Stickles introduced Jerry Fogle, who was sworn in as the Water Commission's new water commission. Fogle replaced the late Commissioner Everett Gasque.

Mayor Stickles announced that Helmly Brothers Hardware opened on Monday, August 10, 2009 on Railroad Avenue. He encouraged residents to continue to support local businesses.

Mayor Van Stickles recognized Ed Wingard for his long time service on the Town's Election Commission. Commissioners Doug Bledsoe and David Earl Polin were also in attendance.

The Mayor then introduced Holley Geiger as the Town's new Election Commissioner and swore her into office.

V. Water Commission Report

Elloree Water System General Manager presented the monthly report to the council and the minutes of the Water Commission's July 14, 2009 meeting.

He said the system completed 55 work orders and billed 662 customers during June.

The system billed 350 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 20%, up from 18% in June.

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

McDowell also reported that the Water system will be working to replace approximately 30 valves in town. He added that a contractor has been hired to do extensive flushing of all of the fire hydrants in town, which should alleviate the red water issues experienced by water customers. Water customers will receive prior notification of the flushing project and any expected water outages.

Elloree Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Elloree Water System.

VI. Police Report

Chief Preston Avinger delivered the monthly report for the Elloree Police Department, reporting the following information for action taken:

- **18 Calls for service**
- **10 Arrests**
- **65 Uniform traffic tickets**
- **1 Arrest for Malicious Injury to Property**
- **3 Arrests for Public Disorderly Conduct**
- **6 Arrests for outstanding bench warrants**
- **8 False Alarm Calls**
- **3 Calls to assist SCB&T**

Chief Avinger announced that Municipal Court for September has been moved to September 17.

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

- **Total Fines Collected: \$5104.30**
- **Remitted to State Treasurer: \$2571.87**
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$268.73**
- **Revenue Retained by Town: \$2263.70**

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

Clerk Chasity Canaday presented the Clerk/Treasurer report. She began by announcing that St. Paul Baptist Church has adopted the island in front of their church, located in the Phase II Streetscape. The Church will work with the Town to hold a clean-up day on Saturday, August 22 at 9:00am.

The Clerk noted that there had been discussion of moving the town council meetings back to the first Monday of the month and asked that council set the schedule for the remainder of the year so that it can be posted for the public. Mayor Stickles asked that council consider the recommendations and set the new schedule under New Business.

The Clerk announced that the Town will hold Fall Fest on Saturday, October 10 from 9:00am-5:00pm on historic downtown Cleveland Street. There will be a Fall Fest planning meeting on Tuesday, August 18 at 5:30pm in the Town Hall courtroom.

Clerk Canaday announced that filing has ended for the November election. Mayor Van Stickles, Councilman Barbara Butler, Councilman Mike Fanning, and Water Commissioner Jane Singh all filed for reelection and are unopposed. The Mayor noted that this will save the Town approximately \$600.00 in election costs.

Clerk Canaday informed council that the 2007-08 fiscal year audit is nearing completion and will be presented at the September council meeting. She added that the Town will begin working on the 2008-09 fiscal year audit within the next month.

The Clerk informed the Mayor and council that the new accounting software is being utilized and presented financial reports for the month of July. Councilman Fogle made a motion to accept the reports as information and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

The Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with proposed changes to the Town's park rental policy, including the elimination of half-day rentals and the creation of a single full day rental fee of \$30.00.

She also recommended changes to the current policy of allowing churches and non-profit organizations unlimited free reservations of the park due to concerns of abuse of the policy. She recommended that churches and civic organizations be given one free rental per calendar year with additional rentals available with the approval of Mayor or Town Council for events open to the general public.

Mayor Stickles asked that the proposed changes be considered and action taken under New Business.

In the final item of her report, Clerk Canaday noted that the Town is taking steps to replace the five members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and will immediately work to get in compliance with state-required zoning training. She asked that the Mayor, Council, and residents submit names to the Town Hall for consideration.

VIII. Old Business

Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the third and final reading of the borrowing ordinance in the amount of \$70,000 from South Carolina Bank and Trust. Councilman Fogle seconded and all were in favor. Councilman Butler abstained.

IX. New Business

Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the changes to the park rental policy and noted that people reserving the park should be aware that they only reserve the shelter and/or gazebo. The park remains open to the public. Councilman Butler seconded the motion and all were in favor. The new policies will be implemented immediately.

Councilman Fanning made a motion that the council meetings be moved to the first Monday of each month, with the exception of September when it will be held on the first Tuesday. Council Butler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

X. Executive Session***

Mayor Stickles made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. He was seconded by Councilman Void. The Mayor and Council entered into executive session at 6:04pm.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:36 and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to hire Danielle Sanders in a clerical position at the Town Hall for 30 hours per week. Councilman Butler seconded and all were in favor.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Void seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk