

## **Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, December 2, 2008**

**Present:** Van A. Stickles, Mayor  
Barbara Butler, Council Member  
Michael Fanning, Council Member  
James V. Fogle, Council Member  
Larry McDowell, General Manager, Ellore Water System  
John D. Singh, Town Administrator

### **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 November 3, 2008 meeting as written. Councilman Fanning seconded. All were in favor.

### **IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment**

Mayor Stickles welcomed James Burn from South Carolina Electric and Gas who attended the meeting as a special guest.

### **V. Water Commission Report**

Ellore Water Commission General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report to the council and the minutes of the Water Commission's November 10, 2008 meeting.

He said the system completed 39 work orders and billed 630 customers during November.

The system billed 350 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 17%, up from 16.5% in October.

There were no violations for the water or wastewater facilities from the Department of Health and Environmental Control. He also presented a copy of the federal inspection of the wastewater facility, which received a satisfactory rating.

He thanked Mr. Burn and SCE&G for their rapid response to a recent power outage.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

## **VI. Police Report**

Due to officer training, there was no report from the police department. Administrator John Singh noted that the Police Department is participating with the US Marine Corps Reserve to sponsor Toys for Tots efforts and the police department will also be collecting gently used toys for distribution to needy families.

## **VII. Administrator Report**

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, noting that a Commerce Forum was held on November 11, 2008 at 5:30pm to discuss the festival and next year's schedule of events. He added that the next Commerce Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 6, following the Town Council meeting.

He presented copies of the 2009 Schedule of Events which was approved at the Commerce Forum, along with holiday coupon sheets for downtown merchants. He noted that the coupons sheets and schedules were distributed to local businesses, hotels, restaurants, parks, welcome centers, the Town Hall, the town website, multiple email newsletters, and the Calhoun Times. Adadra Williams of the Ellore Heritage Museum noted that they were also distributed to all Museum volunteers. The sheets were also promoted on the town's electronic billboard.

Singh reminded citizens that the Town will host the Lights of Winter event on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The event will kick off at 4:00pm with the Cooking on Cleveland cook-off and will end at 6:00pm with the announcement of the contest winners and the turning on of the downtown lights. The event was originally scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Mayor Stickles and Administrator Singh thanked SCE&G for their help in putting up the town's Christmas lights and decorations.

Singh briefly mentioned a recent power outage in the town and again thanked SCE&G for their rapid response time, which minimized the time the power was out as well as the effect on the operation of the Water System. Singh also thanked the Police Department for providing strobe lights and a vehicle for traffic control while the stoplight was out.

Administrator Singh noted that the town is working to clean up the right of ways within the town limits due to leaves and cotton from the cotton module haulers. Downtown Cleveland Street has already been completed and Highway 6 is an ongoing effort due to continued traffic to and from the cotton gin. Councilman Jimmy Fogle asked if the cotton gin would help with the clean-up as they have in past years.

Administrator Singh informed the Mayor and Council that the Town will not be issuing Christmas bonuses for employees this year. Mayor Stickles thanked the town employees for their willingness to forgo bonuses in an attempt to help the Town stay within its budget.

## **VIII. Old Business**

Council reviewed the third and final reading of an ordinance for annexation of 740 Hampton Street, TMS#0282-12-02-010.000. Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the request, and Councilman Butler seconded. All were in favor.

A public hearing was held on 5:00pm on December 2, 2008 to review the proposed annexation. There were no public comments or protests at the hearing or in written form prior to the meeting.

Councilman Butler made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to enter into a franchise agreement with Tri-County Electric. Councilman Fanning seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Administrator Singh noted that the agreement was reviewed extensively with town officials and with SCE&G who currently provides the town's power services. The agreement with Tri-County Electric will govern areas designated as falling within their service area that may be annexed into the town limits in the future. There were two minor changes made to the agreement, regarding wording issues.

Administrator Singh noted that a letter will be sent to SCE&G requesting changes to the existing franchise agreement with them to reflect the new agreement with Tri-County.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the third quarter police fines, along with a breakdown of revenue and expenditures. Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the recommended budget adjustments, as requested by Chief Preston Avinger and Clerk Chasity Canaday. Councilman Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mayor Stickles noted that the fines collected for the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$13,205.00, with \$7,606.51 remitted to the State Treasurer, \$642.73 retained for Victims Assistance, \$495.58 for the Police Equipment Fund, and \$4,460.18 retained by the Town.

#### **IX. New Business**

Mayor Stickles presented a proclamation recognizing December 5<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day and the beautification brought to the town by trees. A ceremony will be held at 9:00am on Arbor Day at Joe Miller Park. Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor. A tree will be planted in memory of Ann Hickman by the Ellore Garden Club during the ceremony, which will be the third one held in Ellore.

Singh noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee for Parks and Recreation held their quarterly meeting on November 5, 2008 at 5:30pm. Chairman Jack Lane was unable to attend so the report was presented by Administrator Singh. The committee recommended improvements to the restrooms at Joe Miller Park, fencing for the trees at the park. The committee will also review plans for parking and barriers along Harlin Street. A grant from the Joseph J. Miller Foundation will assist with the funding for these projects. The next committee meeting will be held on January 8, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall and will be open to the public.

Singh announced that filing has closed for the special election scheduled for January 13, 2009 to fill the remaining term of former councilman Barry Pauling of Council District #2. Two candidates filed during the filing period and will appear on the ballot.

Singh also announced the Town's holiday schedule, noting that the Town Hall will close at 12:00pm on Christmas Eve, December 24 and will be closed on December 25 & 26 for Christmas. The Town Hall will close at 12:00pm for New Year's Eve and will be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Year's Day.

Singh announced that the town is submitting its application for renewal of its Tree City USA designation, which is an annual designation. There is a requirement

that the town spend \$2.00 per capita on trees within the town to maintain the designation, which may be done through financial expenditures or in-kind labor. Councilman Butler made a motion to approve a resolution to renew the application and was seconded by Councilman Fogle. All were in favor.

Administrator Singh presented accounting software information from Nicholson Business Software. Councilman Fanning made a motion to purchase the software and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor. Singh noted that payment for the software will be made over the course of several years through a zero-percent financing agreement with Nicholson. Funds for the purchase will not come from the town's regular budget and will be funded by an outside source.

Resident and business owner Ruth Felder thanked the Town for all they do.

Administrator Singh added that Senator John Matthews has met with the Department of Transportation to review plans for sidewalks on Harlin Street and Browning Road.

**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 6:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer