

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, December 12, 2011

Present: Van Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Milt Felder, Council Member
Mike Fanning, Council Member
Chasity Avinger, Town Clerk
Glynda Bullington, Assistant Town Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Harold Void provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Void made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2011 council meeting and those of the November 14, 2011 council meeting as written. Councilman Butler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. The October minutes were not approved at the November 14, 2011 meeting as there was no quorum present.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Stickles welcomed Orangeburg County Councilman Johnny Ravenell as a special guest. Mr. Ravenell commented that he was pleased to represent the Town of Ellore and work in conjunction with our current town officials and those being sworn in. Mayor Stickles then introduced Orangeburg County Magistrate Judge Derrick Dash who conducted the swearing-in ceremonies.

Uncontested candidates for Town Council and the Water Commission for the year 2012 were sworn in as follows: Harold Void, Town Council District 2, Hamilton "Milt" Felder, Town Council District 3, and Jerry Fogle, Water Commission.

Mayor Stickles also presented a special proclamation in observance of Arbor Day on December 2, 2011, on which date a Bradford pear tree was replaced at Ellore Elementary School and a River Birch was planted at Joe Miller Park during programs coordinated by Cindy Lane and the Ellore Garden Club. Loblolly pines were also

presented to the 4th graders who were part of the Foresters project. Mayor Stickles commented that the Times and Democrat had published a highly complementary article praising Ellore for its Arbor Day efforts and our designation as a Tree City U.S.A., all part of long-time efforts to be a “Green Town”. He added that we may be eligible for a special award because of our involvement in these programs.

V. Water Commission Report

Systems Manager Cole Dantzler delivered the council report for the Water System and provided the Mayor and Council with monthly reports from the month of November.

The Water System completed 66 work orders and billed 645 water customers during the month of November. They also billed 321 garbage customers on behalf of the Town. Estimated water loss was 15%.

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

A public hearing was held prior to the council meeting at Town Hall to discuss the results of the rate study conducted by Rural Water Association.

Ellore Water Commission will hold their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System building.

VI. Police Report

A report for November was presented at the meeting by Officer Shawn Murphree, with the following information for action taken:

- **(2) Arrests for Shoplifting**
- **(1) Arrest for Shoplifting 3rd Offense**
- **(1) Arrest for Outstanding Bench Warrant**

Other reportable and non-reportable incidents:

- **(4) calls to assist SCB&T**
- **(2) requests for assistance by other agencies**
- **(3) Uniform Traffic Tickets were issued**

Councilman Void mentioned that, on many mornings, motorists are speeding down Highway 6 at more 40 to 50 miles per hour and requested that our Police to crack down on them. Officer Murphree replied that efforts are underway to address the issue.

Officer Murphree presented the Police Fines Report for the month of November, showing the following totals:

- **Total Fines Collected:** \$1998.89
- **Remitted to State Treasurer:** \$1311.99
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund:** \$109.15
- **Revenue Retained by Town:** *\$577.75

*Retained amount to be placed in Savings.

Mayor Stickles reiterated that the Town of Elloreë does not write tickets to make money, but as a law enforcement effort to promote public safety.

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

Clerk Chasity Avinger referred Council members to the November 2011 financial reports for the Town in their binders with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month. Clerk Avinger explained the current state of the budget, which was favorable. She also explained the reasons for some budget overages and shortfalls.

The Town's annual Small Town Christmas event was held on Saturday, December 10th. Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Elloreë Lions Club, kicked off the festivities from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. with a good attendance which helped the Lions' exceed their goal of \$500 in ticket sales.

Following breakfast, Santa visited participating businesses and civic organizations. Shops along Cleveland Street opened at 10 a.m. and Santa's visits began at 11. As Santa visited each shop or business, there was a Naughty or Nice competition to see which host gave the warmest welcome to visitors. The winners of that competition are being determined.

The day's festivities culminated in a parade down Cleveland Street which started at 5:00 p.m. with approximately 60 units participating. The streets were lined with young and older parade-goers who scurried for the candy being tossed from floats and vehicles. By all accounts, the brightly colored lights and decorations were beautifully presented, an impressive effort for a small town like Elloreë. After the parade, participants were treated to hot chocolate and coffee supplied by the IGA in Elloreë, as well as water from Hickory Springs Water Company given by Chip and Claudia Withrow. Special thanks go to the Elloreë Business Association, which

organized the parade, and to Chris Williams and others from Shiloh AME Church who set up Joe Miller Park for the after-parade gathering.

The day before, on Friday, December 9th, storefront displays were judged and the winners were announced during Small Town Christmas. First Place went to Haps, Second Place to The Old Mil House, and the Third Place winner was Moore's Flower Shop.

Mayor Stickles, council members and others attending the meeting were full of praise for Saturday's parade. Mayor Stickles said the streets were full with onlookers. Councilman Butler said it was fantastic. Sarah Ann Parler of the Elloree Garden Club was delighted that their entry won a trophy. The question was raised whether or not it would become an annual event. This and other parade items will be discussed at a follow-up meeting with the Business Association, Mayor and Police at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

Clerk Chasity Avinger reported on the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting that was held at 5:00pm on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. She revealed the results of a variance request, a request for a special exception to zoning, and the election of a new Board chairman. Minutes of that meeting were compiled and mailed to council in advance of the December council meeting.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012.

X. Executive Session***

Clerk Avinger requested an executive session to discuss personnel. Councilman Fanning made a motion to enter executive session. He was seconded by Councilman Butler. Council entered into executive session at 6:10 p.m. Mayor Stickles made a motion to leave executive session and was seconded by Councilman Butler. The session ended at 6:24 p.m.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to award Christmas bonuses of \$200.00 to all permanent Town employees and \$50.00 to the Town's seasonal employees. This motion was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

Councilman Fanning made a motion that the Town enter into a contractual agreement with Chasity Avinger for administrative services at a rate of \$25.00 per hour. Billable hours will not exceed 10 hours per week for the first quarter of 2012 and will not exceed 5 hours per week for the second quarter of 2012. The motion was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fanning made a motion to adjourn the meeting. He was seconded by Councilman Butler, and the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Stickles at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glynda Bullington
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer