

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, December 9, 2013

Present: Van Stickles, Mayor
Mike Fanning, Council Member
Milt Felder, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member

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 Michael Fanning made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting and November 22, 2013 special council meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Milt Felder and all were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comments

Mayor Stickles thanked former Councilman Barbara Butler for her service to the town, followed by similar comments from Councilman Milt Felder. Councilman Mike Fanning noted that he had served on council with Councilman Butler for 20 years and appreciated her long-time service. Councilman Harold Void thanked her for her steadiness in service and commitment to service. Butler thanked them for their kind comments and noted that she will continue to serve the community in whatever way possible.

Mayor Stickles presented Councilman Butler with a plaque recognizing her 20 years of service on town council and her commitment to the Town of Ellore. Council members Fanning, Felder, and Void all joined in presenting the plaque.

Mayor Stickles recognized Mary Jo Delaney who addressed the mayor and council regarding the ongoing Community Development Block Grant for the Ellore Water System. She noted that the Tee Vee Road extension project has been completed except for final paperwork and accounting. She noted that the Town of Ellore is the grantee on the grant as funds must be routed through a municipality.

One of the requirements of the grant is a handicapped/disability accessibility study. Delaney presented her findings to the mayor and council and added that the Town appears to be in compliance with all requirements. Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve and accept the report as presented. Councilman Felder seconded and all were in favor.

V. Water Commission Report

The mayor and council reviewed the monthly report for the Ellore Water System, along with the minutes of the November water commission meeting.

There were 79 work orders in November and 621 water customers billed. Water loss was at 23% for the month. She noted that the number of customers decreased due to Camp Daniels residents now being serviced by Calhoun County rather than by the Ellore Water System. The new water lines on Tee Vee Road are completed and are now in operation. The water and wastewater facilities were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

The next Ellore Water Commission will hold its next meeting on December 10, 2013 at 6:00pm.

VI. Police Report

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

- Reportable and non-reportable incidents:
 - **1 Arrest for Driving Under Suspension**
 - **1 Arrest for Uninsured Motor Vehicle**
 - **1 Arrest for Simple Possession of Marijuana**
 - **4 calls to assist SCB&T**
 - **2 Requests for assistance by other agencies**
 - **4 Uniform Traffic Tickets**
 - **5 Tickets Issued for Operating without a Business License**

Officer Murphree noted that there was a shooting in town during the month on Railroad Avenue and Harlin Street. The Police Department immediately responded and apprehended suspect Michael Shivers within several hours, charging him with attempted murder.

Officer Murphree also noted that the Police Department was awarded the AAA Carolina Traffic Safe Community Award. Chief Preston Avinger attended the award ceremony in Columbia.

The mayor and council also reviewed a letter from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy thanking the Police Department for their assistance in filming the CJA 2013/2014 Legal Update video. Mayor Stickles added that he was impressed that Police Department had been chosen to participate and council expressed their hope that they would be able to view the video when it is completed and distributed.

The Clerk presented the Police Fines Report for the month of November, showing the following totals:

- **Total Fines Collected:** \$562.00
- **Remitted to State Treasurer:** \$291.05
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund:** \$29.02
- **Revenue Retained by Town:** *\$241.93 (Placed in Savings)

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

Council reviewed the November 2013 financial reports for the Town in their binders, along with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month.

Mayor Stickles noted that Small Town Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 14 and will kick off with Breakfast with Santa at 8:30am. Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by the Ellore Lions Club at the First Baptist Church until 10:30am. Tickets are available at Town Hall, Avinger Law Firm, and from any member of the Ellore Lions Club. Santa will then travel throughout town visiting businesses before the Ellore Business Association Christmas Parade at 6:00pm.

Mayor Stickles noted that Chasity Avinger, Danielle Sanders, and Caitlin Felkel will be assisting in sponsoring a Christmas Café in the former Hap's building from 3:00pm-7:00pm during Small Town Christmas. They will be offering free beverages and holiday treats as well as free gift wrapping for any purchases made in Ellore on the day of the event.

Mayor Stickles announced that the new election for mayor will be held on February 11, 2014 and the candidates will be Stan Busch and Chasity Avinger. The election for Barbara Butler's vacated council seat in District 1 will be held that same day. Filing for council will be open from noon on December 16 until December 27 at noon.

Mayor Stickles noted that the town's election ordinance extends his term until the new mayor is sworn in. The new election will be held on February 11 and certified on February 13. Mayor Stickles requested that a special meeting be held on February 14 to swear in the newly elected officials. Councilman Fanning will be sworn in during the January council meeting.

VIII. Old Business

No old business.

IX. **New Business**

Mayor Stickles thanked the Water System for their assistance in planting a tree at Joe Miller Park on Arbor Day, which was celebrated on Friday, December 6, 2013. The Elloree Lions Club planted the tree in memory of the late Lion John Parler.

Councilman Milt Felder made a motion to appoint Mike Fanning as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming term and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor.

Councilman Mike Fanning asked that the town meet with the water commission to clarify several issues that he noted after reviewing their monthly meeting minutes, including the 1% penny sales tax, Lake Marion Regional Water Authority, and issues regarding debt and revenue assessments.

The next Town Council meeting is Monday, January 13, 2014 at 5:30pm.

X. **Executive Session*****

XI. **Adjournment**

Councilman Void made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilman Felder. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Sanders, Town Clerk