

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Michael Fanning, Council Member
James V. Fogle, Council Member
Chasity Sanders Canaday, Clerk/Treasurer
Larry McDowell, General Manager, Ellore Water System
John D. Singh, Town Administrator
Preston Avinger, Chief of Police

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Barry Pauling provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting. Councilman Mike Fanning seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Local realtor Bob Hickman of Courtesy Realty was the only special guest, presenting the Mayor and Council with plans for a proposed development that will include approximately 32 acres of property located on Cleveland Street, adjacent to the Ellore Fire Station.

The development will be called "Barkley Place" and will include up to 60 new homes. Hickman asked the Mayor and Council to consider annexation of the property into the town limits. The property is currently owed by Ann H. Polin and will be sold later this month to the developers.

V. Water Commission Report

Elloree Water Commission General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report and minutes of the January 8, 2008 water commission meeting to the council.

He said the system completed 41 work orders and billed 638 customers during January.

The system billed 364 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 9%, down from 19% in December.

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

He also reported on the status of the Hampton Street well project, noting that the Well-Bacterial Samples have all come back clear.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Elloree Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2007 at 6:00pm at the Elloree Water System.

VI. Police Report

Investigator Lin Shirer delivered the monthly report from the Police Department on behalf of Chief Preston Avinger, reporting the following information for action taken:

- 17 Calls for Service**
- 4 Arrests**
- 1 Report** of Larceny
- 1 Report** of Check Forgery
- 1 Arrest** for Driving under Suspension
- 1 Arrest** for Violation of Probation
- 1 Arrest** for possession of marijuana
- 1 Arrest** for possession of cocaine
- 4 Requests for Assistance** from other agencies
- 42 Traffic Stops**
- 28 Uniform traffic tickets**

Shirer reported that both he and Chief Preston Avinger attended a Gang Awareness class sponsored by Tri-County Electric and presented by the Richland County Sheriff's Office. The Elloree Police Department plans to hold a gang awareness class for the community in the near future.

He also announced that the police department has also purchased some new less than lethal weapons to improve officer safety, subject safety, and to reduce civil liability. These weapons include 12 gauge shotgun beanbag rounds and a new Taser device.

VII. Administrator Report

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, reminding those attending that the Commerce Forum will be held at 6:30pm following the February council meeting on February 5, 2008.

Phase III of the Streetscape has started on Cleveland Street in the area between Highway 6 and Lexington Street. The project is proceeding on schedule and has only run into one glitch, with new handicap accessibility being addressed.

Singh also addressed the issue of telephone outages, noting that the town is working to prevent and prepare for future outages, particularly as they affect public safety agencies.

A public needs assessment meeting will be held on February 12, 2008 at 6:00pm. The meeting will be used to discuss concerns from citizens and needs for improvement in the community. He stressed the importance of citizen input during the meeting and encouraged residents to attend if possible. The town will also address upcoming projects and plans.

The administrator informed the mayor and council that the Town Audit for the 2006-07 fiscal year is moving along well and the continuing changes to the accounting system should be completed within the next two months.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

IX. New Business

John Singh asked that the Mayor and Council to consider a new usage policy for the Ellore Gym. The Gym, which was previously available for public rentals, is now the home of the Ellore Boys and Girls Club and rentals were temporarily stopped.

The new usage policy includes provisions for organized teams to practice, including public and private school teams, and will require a town employee to be present during all practices. Per the new policy, the activities of the Boys and Girls Club will take first priority over any other requests or rentals.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to adopt the proposed Ellore Gym Usage policy, with one change stipulating that the Boys and Girls Club will have first option at reserving the gym but will not supersede a group once a reservation has been made. Councilman Barry Pauling seconded the motion.

The Mayor presented the names Derrick Dash, Jack Lane, Terrell Summers, Joan Jamison, Elizabeth Fogle, Tilly Martin and Taylor McKeowen to serve on the town's Citizens Advisory Committee for Recreation.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the nominees. Barry Pauling seconded, and all were in favor. An organization meeting will be scheduled.

The Mayor presented the names Jal'al Bey, Judy Lambert, Isaac Wilborn, Susie Jefferson, James Adams, James Scherer, Beverly Parler-Rice, Richard Bochette, and one Ex-Officio member from the Orangeburg Boys and Girls Club to serve on the Board of Directors for the Ellore Boys and Girls Club.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the nominees. Barry Pauling seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to allow the town to send a letter of intent to Bob Hickman stating that the town will agree to annexation when a formal petition is received from the landowner. Councilman Barry Pauling seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mayor Stickles also recognized Officer Lin Shirer and applauded him for being named the 2007 Firefighter of the Year in St. Matthews. The Mayor thanked Shirer for the service he provides to the Town of Ellore and the people of Calhoun County.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Councilman Mike Fanning seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
Mayor Van Stickle adjourned the meeting at 6:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer