

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, February 10, 2014

Present: Van Stickles, Mayor
Mike Fanning, Council Member
Milt Felder, Council Member
Chasity Sanders Avinger, Acting Administrator

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Michael Fanning provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Milt Felder made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mike Fanning and all were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comments

Chad Lowder, CEO of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, was recognized and presented the mayor with a check for \$4,000.00 for the utility company's annual franchise fee. He also introduced Frank Furtick who is the company's Chief Operating Officer. He stressed that Tri-County Electric Cooperative is committed to working with the Town of Ellore and its officials to provide services in the community. Mayor Van Stickles thanked Lowder for Tri-County's commitment to the town and for their support.

Auditor Dwight "Chip" Summers of Brodie, Summers & Wilkes presented the town's 2012-2013 fiscal year audit to the mayor and council, noting that the town received an "unqualified" opinion, the highest opinion that can be awarded in municipal audits. The audit covers July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The audit is divided between the General Operations and Water System Operations and reflects assets, liabilities, and long-term debt balances.

Total revenues were \$599,550 and total expenditures were \$518,162.00 for the period audited for the Town's general operations. The Water Systems total revenues were \$524,530 and total expenditures were \$535,762.00. The Water System's net decrease in cash was \$15,541.00.

Summers also presented the budget versus actual figures for the Town. The Town received more revenues than budgeted for and spent less than budgeted for. Summers noted that the Town's audit this year reflects the best financial position that he has presented and added that the biggest contributor to that has been controlling of costs, particularly cuts to payroll and other employee-related expenses.

Summers further detailed which funds were restricted, including the Victims Assistance Fund, Drug Fund, and required cash on hand for loans. He added that the Town has a strong operations system in place and is managing cash flow very well.

V. Water Commission Report

Cole Dantzler presented the monthly report for the Ellore Water System, along with the minutes of the January water commission meeting.

There were 85 work orders in January and 625 water customers billed. Water loss was at 8% for the month, down from 23% in December. The water and wastewater facilities were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

The next Ellore Water Commission will hold its next meeting on February 18, 2014 at 6:00pm. It was changed from its regular date due to the possibility of inclement weather on February 11.

VI. Police Report

A report for January reviewed, with the following information for action taken:

Reportable and non-reportable incidents:

- **1 Arrest for Breach of Trust at the IGA**
- **2 Arrests for Shoplifting**
- **1 Arrest for NCIC Wanted Persons**
- **1 Arrest for Driving Under Suspension 1st Offense**
- **2 Arrests for Minor in Possession of Beer or Wine**
- **7 Arrests for Open Container**
- **4 calls to assist SCB&T**
- **3 Requests for assistance by other agencies**
- **9 Uniform Traffic Tickets**
- **3 Warning Tickets**
- **1 Ticket Issued for Operating without a Business License**

The Police Department participated in numerous safety checkpoints during the month of January including one at Highway 6 and Harlin Street and one at Highway 6 and Snider Street.

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

- **Total Fines Collected:** \$150.00
- **Remitted to State Treasurer:** \$85.23
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund:** \$6.94
- **Revenue Retained by Town:** *\$57.83 (Placed in Savings)

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

Council reviewed the January 2014 financial reports for the Town in their binders, along with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month.

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 closed on December 27 at noon, and Kim Gidron and Daniel Weigand filed for that council seat. The mayor noted that he met with representatives of Orangeburg County Voter Registration and Elections office to set up for the voting. The Election Commission will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 11:00am to certify the election at the Town Hall, and the new mayor will be sworn in at 10:00am on Friday, February 14, 2014.

Zoning Administrator Chasity Avinger noted that the meeting would be her last as the Town's Zoning Administrator, adding that it will be the responsibility of the new mayor to appoint her replacement. She added that it will also be the responsibility of the new mayor to appoint someone to fill the vacancy on the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

Mayor Stickles noted that the Town has been without a Streets and Parks worker for over two weeks due to one resignation and one extended illness.

Councilman Mike Fanning and Councilman Milt Felder presented Mayor Van Stickles with a plaque recognizing his eight(8) years of service as mayor. Councilman Fanning thanked Mayor Stickles and his family for their commitment to the town and for the strong representation that he gave for the town across the state.

Mayor Stickles noted that he entered into public service on May 13, 1973 and that he has enjoyed his time serving the Town of Ellore. Stickles retired as Director of the State Parks Service and became the mayor following the death of Mayor Billy Bookhart. He stated that there are several accomplishments that he is proud to have done, including his work establishing the Eastern Orangeburg County Mayors Coalition, elimination of the costly household garbage services, and establishing a financial reserve account and balanced budget for the Town. He also pledged his commitment to future service to the Town and thanked Town Council for their strong support. He noted that there was not a single dissenting vote from council during his eight year tenure.

The next Town Council meeting is Monday, March 10, 2014 at 5:30pm.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Felder made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilman Fanning. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Felkel, Acting Town Clerk