

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Michael Fanning, Council Member
Barbara Butler, 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 Michael Fanning provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting. Councilman Barbara Butler seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Chad Lowder of the Tri-County *Operation Round Up* Board, formed by Tri-County Electric Cooperative, presented the Police Department with a check in the amount of \$725.00 for the purchase of a ballistics vest for Officer Shawn Murphree.

Operation Round Up is funded through the "rounding up" of electric bills for Tri-County customers. Lowder presented the check to Police Chief Preston Avinger and Mayor Van Stickles.

Lowder also presented a check to President Jane Livingston of the Ellore Heritage Museum and Cultural Center for the Museum's elevator project. Numerous members of the Museum Board of Directors attended the meeting for the presentation.

Mayor Van Stickle thanked Tri-County and its customers for their generous donations.

V. Water Commission Report

Ellore Water Commission General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report and minutes of the December 11, 2007 water commission meeting to the council.

He said the system completed 39 work orders and billed 641 customers during December.

The system billed 364 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services.

The estimated water loss was 19%, down from 23% in November.

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

He announced that the Wastewater Facility has been under a Consent Order due to discrepancies from 2001, but that order has now been closed.

He also reported on the status of the Hampton Street well project, noting that they are waiting on contractors to install the sequestration agent needed.

The Water System has received a \$29,500 grant from the State for improvements to the system. He thanked Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and Administrator John Singh for their help with procuring those funds.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2007 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

VI. Police Report

Police Chief Preston Avinger delivered the monthly report from the Police Department, reporting the following information for action taken:

18 Calls for Service

2 Arrests

1 Arrest of a wanted person

1 Arrest for loitering (multiple offenses)

1 Investigation of theft at Joe Miller Park

1 Recovery of a stolen vehicle out of Greenville County

21 Written Warnings

34 Uniform traffic tickets

Chief Avinger also addressed the armed stand-off between police and an emotionally disturbed person that took place on New Year's Day. That resulted in the individual being placed into protective custody and taken to the TRMC emergency room for mental evaluation. He thanked the other agencies that responded to the call, including the Vance Police Department, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office, and the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office.

He added that Officer Shawn Murphree attended training on conducting undercover operations regarding the sale of tobacco and alcohol to minors from the Tri-County Commission on Drug and Alcohol.

The Police Department also worked in conjunction with the Commission to conduct an undercover operation that targeted the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors in the town of Ellore.

The General Food Store was applauded for asking for proper proof of age and for refusing to sell either product to the two undercover persons sent into the store.

The three other businesses in town sold one or both to minors and were charged appropriately.

VII. Administrator Report

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, noting that the Town hosted the Heritage Corridor Board of Directors meeting at the Elloree Heritage Museum on January 7, 2008. He thanked the Museum for allowing the Board to meet at the facility.

Singh reminded those attending that the Commerce Forum will be held at 6:30pm following the February council meeting on February 5, 2008.

He noted that the Tree City USA application for the town has been submitted.

He also further discussed the theft at Joe Miller Park of a large aluminum picnic umbrella. He asked that anyone with information regarding the umbrella come forward.

Phase III of the Streetscape has started on Cleveland Street in the area between Highway 6 and Lexington Street. The project should take approximately three months to complete. Concerns may be addressed at Town Hall and will be directed to the project contractor.

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.

Clerk Chasity Canaday addressed the upcoming toddler playground project at Joe Miller Park. The Town received a \$7,000 grant from the Joseph J. Miller Foundation for the project, to go toward the total project cost of \$15,000. The remainder of the money will be pulled from other sources, including penny sales tax funds earmarked for recreation.

Mayor Stickles added that the project expense is for equipment and materials only. All labor will be provided by the officers of the Elloree Police Department.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

IX. New Business

John Singh asked that the Town totally convert to the State of South Carolina's Holiday Schedule. Councilman Michael Fanning made a motion to approve the new schedule for the Town. Councilman Barbara Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Administrator also presented the Council Meeting Schedule and Municipal Court schedule for the town for the 2008 calendar year.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Jimmy Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Barbara Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer