

Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, June 13, 2011

Present: Van Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Chasity Sanders Avinger, Town Clerk

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 Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011 special council meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harold Void. All were in favor.

IV. 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 April.

The Water System completed 41 work orders and billed 650 water customers during the month of April. They also billed 330 garbage customers on behalf of the Town. Estimated water loss was 10 %, down from 13 % in April.

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

Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System building.

V. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Stickles recognized special guest Sarah Ann Parler, President of the Ellore Garden Club. He then read a proclamation declaring the week of June 5, 2011 through June 11, 2011 as National Garden Club Week in the Town of Ellore. He applauded the Ellore Garden Club and the Evergreen Garden Club for their efforts in beautifying the town.

Sarah Ann Parler informed the Mayor and Council that the garden clubs placed plants and flowers in businesses throughout town in recognition of the week. She also noted that the Ellore Garden Club is looking forward to decorating Joe Miller Park for July.

Andrew Friedman of the Ellore Business Association addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the ongoing initiatives of the business community. He noted that the EBA developed a presentation to illustrate the goals of the organization and that the group is working to gain input from non-members and residents within the town.

He noted that the EBA is researching information about the Main Street 101 program, which is endorsed by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, as a possible program to promote growth and development within the town's business community. The organization is working to gain support from non-member businesses to determine ways to implement the program.

Friedman noted that the EBA is also working to meet with the Musuem, civic groups, and churches to gain other information and support. The EBA has been conducting a community survey to determine resident opinions about the business community, advertising, and promotion of the town. There was a good response to the survey and the EBA was able to gather a wide range of information for use by the business community in their development efforts.

Town Auditor Chip Summers of Brodie, Summers & Wilkes presented the town's audit for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. He noted that the town received an unqualified opinion, the highest level available for a municipal audit. He reviewed the town's financial statements, discussing assets and liabilities for both the town and the Ellore Water System which is conducted on the same audit. He noted that the town showed a profit of \$14,757 for the budget year.

Resident Claudette Pauling was on the agenda to speak but was not present.

VI. Police Report

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

- **3 Arrest for Public Disorderly Conduct**
- **1 Arrest for Simple Possession of Marijuana**
- **3 Arrest for Shoplifting**
- **4 Arrest for Open Container**
- **1 Arrest for Alcohol Violation**
- **1 Arrest for Drug Paraphernalia**
- **1 Arrest for Loitering**
- **10 Arrest for Outstanding Bench Warrants**

Other reportable and non-reportable incidents:

- **4 calls to assist SCB&T**
- **3 requests for assistance by other agencies**
- **50 Uniform Traffic Tickets**

Clerk Chasity Avinger presented the Police Fines Report for the month of May, showing the following totals:

- **Total Fines Collected: \$3940.75**
- **Remitted to State Treasurer: \$2198.23**
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$221.06**
- **Revenue Retained by Town: *\$1521.46**

*Retained amount to be placed in Savings.

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

The Clerk presented the May 2011 financial reports for the Town, with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month. She noted that Town Hall staff will be reviewing the year's financial records thoroughly before closing the fiscal year on June 30th.

The Clerk noted that Assistant Clerk Holley Geiger's last day was June 3rd. She also introduced Margo Banks, who will serve as the new clerk for the police department and municipal court.

Clerk Avinger reminded business owners that business licenses are now due. She also asked that residents and business owners be diligent about checking for a valid business license when hiring landscapers, contractors, etc.

Clerk Avinger informed the Mayor and Council that the town's zoning ordinance has been added to the Government page of the town's website. She added that Town Hall staff are reviewing and organizing ordinances and will be adding them to the website, as well.

The Clerk stated that the town's next event will be the Independence Day celebration at Joe Miller Park. The picnic will begin at 6pm, followed by the program at 7:30pm and fireworks. Music will be provided by the Sugarloaf Mountain Boys, and fireworks are provided by the Ellore Police Department.

Clerk Avinger provided the Mayor and Council with copies of the 2010 Census figures, which showed that Ellore lost 50 people since the 2000 census count, changing the town's population from 742 to 692.

The Clerk also distributed copies of the town's new brochure, which was designed by former Assistant Clerk Holley Geiger.

VIII. Old Business

A motion to pass the Third Reading of the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance No. 05-02-11-1 was made by Councilman Void and seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

The budget shows revenues and expenditures of \$ and includes a millage rate increase of 2 mils. Public hearings regarding the budget were held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 5:30pm and on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 5:15pm.

The Clerk reminded the Mayor and Council that the increased rates for Suburban Disposal went into effect in June. Increased rates will appear on customer bills in July.

Councilman Void made a motion to approve the second reading of Election Ordinance No. 05-24-11-1 Transfer of Election Authority to Orangeburg County. Councilman Butler seconded and all were in favor. A public hearing was held on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 5:00pm.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2011.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Councilman Void and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chasity Sanders Avinger, Town Clerk/Treasurer