

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Mike Fanning, Council Member
Barry Pauling, 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 Barbara Butler provided the invocation, observing a special moment of silence in honor of Orangeburg County Sheriff's Deputy Howell, who was shot and killed on Saturday, May 3, and South Carolina State Trooper Brown, who was shot on Sunday, May 4.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 meeting as written. Councilman Barry Pauling seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Claudette Pauling addressed the Mayor and Council, first thanking the Ellore Water System and General Manager Larry McDowell for the quick response with a recent water issue at her home.

She then discussed her concerns regarding the Ellore community, particularly the Ellore Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.

V. Water Commission Report

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

He said the system completed 36 work orders and billed 646 customers during March.

The system billed 363 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 16%, up from 15% in March.

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

He also reported that he and the Water System participated in the Lake Marion High School Career Day.

He encouraged customers to contact the Water System at any time if they experience any problems with their water service.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Elloree Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2007 at 6:00pm at the Elloree Water System.

VI. Police Report

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

23 Calls for Service

19 Arrests

1 Arrest for Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute AND Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within Proximity of a Park

1 Arrest for Possession of Cocaine and Simple Possession of Marijuana

1 Arrest for Possession of Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute AND Possession of Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within Proximity of a Park AND Simple Possession of Marijuana

4 Arrests for Simple Possession of Marijuana

2 Arrests for Driving Under Suspension

1 Arrest for Outstanding Bench Warrants

1 Arrest of a Fugitive from Florida

1 Arrest of a Fugitive from South Carolina

2 Recoveries of runaway juveniles

2 Arrests for Vandalism at Loyns Park

1 Arrest for Entering a Financial Institution with an Intent to Steal, Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon, Possession of a Pistol During a Violent Crime, Grand Larceny, Burglary in the 2nd Degree, and Making a False 9-1-1 Report

3 Requests for Assistance from other agencies, including a shooting in Calhoun County, the shooting of an Orangeburg County Sheriff's Deputy, and the shooting of a South Carolina State Trooper

24 Traffic Stops

17 Uniform traffic tickets

He noted that Investigator Lin Shirer attended a meeting of the Law Enforcement Network and that Shirer also represented the Police Department at the Lake Marion High School Career Day.

Chief Preston Avinger also recertified for Clandestine Laboratory Investigations.

Chief Avinger took a moment to recognize Officer Shawn Murphree, noting that Officer Murphree made numerous major drug arrests and arrested two fugitives within a four day span.

Mayor Van Stickles took the opportunity to thank Chief Avinger and Officer Murphree, along with Investigator Lin Shirer, praising their professionalism and experience. He added that the Police Department consistently exceeds his expectations and praised their work regarding the bank robbery at South Carolina Bank and Trust. The Mayor, Council, and those in attendance gave the police department a standing ovation.

Councilman Barbara Butler also thanked the Police Department on behalf of the bank, noting that they were the first to respond and handled the situation in a very thorough and professional manner.

Administrator John Singh also praised the Police Department for their hard work and service to the town, stating that the Town of Ellore is lucky to have officers with such a range of experience and public service.

VII. Administrator Report

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, noting that the Town has completed Phase III of the Cleveland Street Streetscape, which covers the area between Highway 6 and Lexington Street. A change has been made to the handicapped parking.

The annual Rabies Clinic was held on April 22, 2008 from 4:00pm-6:00pm and will be held at the old fire station.

Pork Fest was held on April 25th and 26th at Joe Miller Park. The event featured an Anything but Pork competition on Friday night from 6:30pm-8:00pm and a barbeque cook-off on Saturday from 10:30am-12:00pm, which was judged by the South Carolina Barbeque Association. Both events also featured a popular vote.

Administrator Singh reminded business owners that business license fees were due by March 31, but were able to be paid without penalty until April 30th. Operating without a business license carries a \$200.00 fine.

Singh noted that the damages due to vandalism at Loyns Park will be repaired next week and the restrooms reopened.

He added that the Town's Farmers market is ready to start again for the summer and asked that anyone interested in participating contact the Town Hall for more information. Spaces are free and tents are provided free of charge.

Singh asked that interested volunteers join the Town's work committee for beautification. He thanked Ruth Felder for her hard work on the flower beds in downtown Ellore and for helping to beautify the town.

He noted that the Town also participated in the Lake Marion High School Career Day.

VIII. Old Business

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the third and final reading of ordinance #03-04-2008 approving the annexation request of Phillip Roland regarding TMS#0285-00-05-023.000. The property is located on Cleveland Street and will be the home of the proposed Barkley Place development. The property will be zoned R-1 Residential and will be brought into the Town limits on May 6, following this reading of the ordinance.

Councilman Barbara Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A public hearing regarding the annexation was held on April 10 at 6:00pm. There were no negative comments regarding the proposed project.

IX. New Business

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2008-2009 Town of Ellore Budget by Title Only. Councilman Mike Fanning seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the first reading of a borrowing ordinance from South Carolina Bank & Trust of \$70,00.00 by Title Only. Councilman Barry Pauling seconded the motion. Councilman Barbara Butler abstained. All others were in favor.

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve a \$1.00 increase for monthly household trash services due to fuel increases. Councilman Barry Pauling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Van Stickles announced that the Town will be holding a Bank Appreciation Day at South Carolina Bank and Trust, with a date to be announced.

He also announced that the Ellore Dispatch is no longer being printed and thanked Tom Geiger for his hard work with that project.

Mayor Stickles thanked the local prayer group for their hard work in organizing the National Day of Prayer program on May 1, 2008.

The Mayor added that he recently attended the Mayor's Meeting in Orangeburg along with other mayors throughout Orangeburg County. Mayor Stickles will be hosting a Mayors Meeting on May 15, 2008 regarding the Jafza project being developed outside of Santee. Mayors from Santee, Bowman, Vance, Holly Hill, and Eutawville have been invited, along with representatives of the Jafza Corporation and Applied Technology Management.

Clerk Chasity Canaday noted that the Town will host its Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 17 at Joe Miller Park. The event will start at 11:00 and lunch will be served.

Trash to Treasures will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 8:00am-5:00pm on downtown Cleveland Street and will feature food vendors and street vendors. The Ellore Heritage Museum will also hold a rummage sale and strawberry sale. Additional information is available on the Town's website at www.elloreesc.com, along with applications for vendors and no-profit organizations.

Mayor Stickle also thanked Faye Bookhart for granting the Town permission to utilize a billboard on her property along Highway 6 to promote the town.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Barry Pauling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Barbara Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickle adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer