

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Present: Van A. Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Michael Fanning, Council Member
James V. Fogle, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member
Larry McDowell, General Manager, Ellore Water System
John D. Singh, Town Administrator

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Councilman Barbara Butler provided the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting as written. Councilman Jimmy Fogle and Councilman Harold Void seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Van Stickles recognized Milt Felder for his contributions to the Town. Mayor Stickles thanked Felder for assisting with the message maintenance on the Town's electronic sign for more than six months.

Administrator Singh noted that Felder also maintained the manual message board sign that was at the Community Building prior to the installation of the new electronic board.

Mayor Stickles presented Felder with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town.

V. Water Commission Report

Elloree Water Commission General Manager presented the monthly report to the council and the minutes of the Water Commission's April 14, 2009 meeting.

He said the system completed 32 work orders and billed 664 customers during April.

The system billed 350 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 11%, down from 19% in March.

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

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Elloree Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Elloree Water System.

VI. Police Report

Town Administrator John Singh delivered the report from the Police Department on behalf of Chief Preston Avinger, noting that the Police Department responded to 16 requests for service during the month of April and arrested 9 individuals.

Incidents including arrests are as follows:

- 1 Arrest of a Wanted Person
- 1 Arrest for Possession of Powder Cocaine
- 1 Arrest for Crack Cocaine
- 2 Arrests for Simple Possession of Marijuana
- 1 Arrest for Trespassing
- 1 Arrest for Unlawful Entry to Abandoned Property during Night Time Hours
- 2 Arrests for Public Disorderly Conduct

Other reportable and non-reportable incidents include:

- 1 Shots Fired call that was unfounded
- 1 Recovery of a runaway juvenile
- 1 Call for ATVs being operated in the road way

The Police Department also issued 65 Uniform Traffic Tickets and a breakdown was presented of those offenses, including:

- 20 Speeding or Careless Driving
- 17 Violation of Seatbelt
- 1 Unlawful Entry to Private Property
- 2 Child Seat Restraint Violation
- 2 Driving Under Suspension
- 10 Open Container of Alcohol
- 1 Loitering
- 1 Trespassing
- 1 Violation of Truck Route
- 1 Public Drunk
- 1 Minor Child in Possession of Alcohol
- 1 Violation of Beginners Permit
- 2 Public Disorderly Conduct
- 1 Littering
- 2 Operating Uninsured Vehicle
- 2 Simple Possession of Marijuana

VII. Administrator Report

Town Administrator John Singh informed the Mayor and Council that changing accounting systems is still in a transitional phase and presented a detailed agenda statement explaining the continued delay. There are conversion issues transferring data from the old Quickbooks accounting system into the new Nicholson Business Systems accounting system.

Administrator Singh noted the importance of ensuring that data is entered correctly at the onset to avoid accounting issues further down the road.

Administrator Singh noted that business license renewals were due on April 30 and anyone operating now is doing so without a business license and may be subject to late fees.

Singh noted that Pork Fest was held on April 17 & 18 and was a great financial success. Mayor Stickles noted that estimated profits from the event were \$4500 which should be enough to complete the holiday banner project on Highway 6 and begin expanding the project to Cleveland Street.

Administrator Singh noted that the Rabies Clinic was held by Dr. Walter Hutto at the old Fire Station and inoculated over 250 animals. He added that it was the first time that he had ever seen a line of people waiting at the event.

Singh reported on Operation Inasmuch, which was held by Trinity Lutheran Church and the Evergreen Garden Club at Loyns Park on Saturday, May 2. Volunteers worked to clear debris at Loyns Park, including overgrown bushes and fallen trees.

The Administrator updated the Mayor and Council about the status of cuts to Aid to Subdivisions that are expected to come down over the next year. He estimates that the cuts will be about 17.4%, resulting in approximately a \$4000-5000 cut to the budget revenue. He added that the Town should be prepared for the changes that will come with those cuts in funding.

Singh also reminded citizens that the US Census Bureau is working in the area. Information about the local branch of the Census Bureau has been posted at the Town Hall.

VIII. Old Business

Council discussed the current burning ban and the proposed burning ordinance. Councilman Butler made a motion to table the second reading of the ordinance until after a workshop is held.

A workshop will be held on June 2 at 6:00pm to discuss the burning ordinance and its possible structure. The workshop will be open to the public.

IX. New Business

Administrator Singh noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee for Parks and Recreation will hold its quarterly meeting at the Town Hall courtroom on Thursday, May 7 at 5:30pm. The meeting is open to the public.

There will be a Fall Fest planning meeting on May 19 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall courtroom and is also open to the public.

Council approved the first reading by title only of an ordinance renewing the 10 year franchise agreement with South Carolina Electric & Gas. The renewal period will be for 20 years and will include adjusted language to reflect changes in the

franchise agreement with Tri County Electric. Councilman Butler made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Councilman Fogle. All were in favor.

Council approved first reading by title only of the 2009-2010 Town Budget. Council will hold a workshop on June 2nd at 5:00pm to review the budget and make changes before the second reading at the regular council meeting.

Councilman Fogle made a motion to approve first reading by title only and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

The council meeting for June will be held on June 9 at 5:30pm so that the council can hold its budget workshop and fire ordinance workshop on June 2.

The council meeting for November has been rescheduled for November 10 at 5:30pm due to election conflicts.

Mayor Stickles noted that he and the Town Administrator will be attending the Mayors Prayer Breakfast in Orangeburg on May 7. The Mayor will be attending the Mayors Meeting in St. Matthews on May 18 with other area mayors.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Void seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer