

## **Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, May 12, 2014**

**Present:** Stan Busch, Mayor  
Mike Fanning, Council Member  
Kim Gidron, Council Member  
Harold Void, Council Member  
Milt Felder, Council Member

Connie Martin, Town Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Stan Busch called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**II. Opening Prayer**

Stan Busch, Mayor, provided the invocation.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Void made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fanning and all were in favor.

**IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comments**

**Special guests**

Mayor Busch recognized Cletus Wyland, resident of 464 Woodland Terrace, Ellore, SC. Mr. Wyland complained of the noise created by Mr. Carson who continues to operate his commercial truck hauling business on Hampton Street in Ellore, which is a residential section of town. Mr. Wyland noted it has been over a year that the complaint was made and, even though Mr. Carson said he was moving his business, he has not.

Mayor Busch recognized Megan Carn, Manager of the Ellore Heritage Museum. Ms. Carn presented Council with the annual request of \$4,000 from the Town of Ellore and a letter.

Mayor Busch recognized Chasity Avinger, attorney, of Ellore, SC, who requested to speak with Council in Executive Session regarding personnel and contractual matters. Mayor Busch stated he would not allow her in Executive Session, but would request Council to vote on whether to allow her to come into Executive Session.

Mayor Busch recognized Officer Lin Shirer, employee of the Town of Ellore. Mr. Shirer voiced his concerns to council regarding privacy in the work environment and requested to continue his complaint with Council in Executive Session.

Mayor Busch recognized Karen McMahon, of Manning, SC, who has been volunteering her services for the Town of Elloree until permanent staff could be hired. Ms. McMahon stated that once she began working in the Town Hall she became aware of things that happened to Mayor Busch once he took office and she wanted everyone to put aside all grudges and get on board to work for the common good of Elloree.

Mayor Busch recognized Dan McMahon, who is the temporary Clerk of Court for the Town of Elloree. Mr. McMahon reiterated the fact there were two elections and that the Town had been operating with an all-volunteer staff. Mr. McMahon expressed his dissatisfaction with what he considered work-place hostilities and that he had elected to temporarily remove himself as Clerk of Court until these issues had been resolved and everyone could work together for the future of Elloree.

**V. Water Commission Report**

Cole Dantzler presented the monthly report for the Elloree Water System, along with the minutes of the April 2014 water commission meeting.

There were 68 work orders in April and 646 water customers billed. Water loss was at 15% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

The next Elloree Water Commission will hold its next meeting on May 13, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

**VI. Police Report**

Police Chief Preston Avinger presented the Police Report for April:  
Reportable and non-reportable incidents:

- 1 Arrest for Open Container
- 1 Arrest for DUS and No SC Drivers License
- 1 Arrest for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle w/Intent to Defraud
- 2 Arrests for Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> & Grand Larceny (Over \$30,000) from the Elloree Gin and all items were recovered and returned
- 1 Arrest for Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> and Petit Larceny from the Elloree Maintenance Shed after recovering some of the stolen items during execution of search warrant
- 1 Arrest for Possession of Crack Cocaine
- 3 Arrests for Shoplifting
- 1 Arrest for purse snatching
- 1 arrest for Disorderly Conduct

- Other reportable and non-reportable incidents or events included:
  - ≥ Larceny of a utility trailer
  - ≥ Located and returned a small toddler who was reported missing in downtown area
  - ≥ 1 incident report filed for allowing unauthorized person to operate a motor vehicle and for violation of state laws concerning the Freedom of Information Act
  - ≥ Responded to 5 false alarm calls
  - ≥ Responded to 3 routine requests for assistance by SCBT
  - ≥ Responded to 5 requests for assistance by other agencies that included Santee Police Dept and the SCHK
  - ≥ 2 highway safety check points were conducted in town in conjunction with SCHK

The Police Department issued 23 Uniform Traffic Tickets and responded to 1 non-reportable traffic accident that occurred on private property.

- **Total Fines Collected:** \$1,473.26
- **Remitted to State Treasurer:** \$766.55
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund:** \$206.96
- **Revenue Retained by Town:** \$499.75 (Placed in Savings)

**VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report**

Council reviewed the April 2014 Revenue & Expenditures financial reports for the Town in their binders. Councilman Felder moved to accept the financial reports. Councilman Fanning seconded the motion and all voted to accept.

**VIII. Old Business**

Mayor Busch discussed the possibility of charging only \$15 per day for a more cost effective transient license fee for vendors who do only single day jobs in town or are sidewalk type vendors. Mayor Busch also invited audience opinion of a possible Farmers and Craft Market with hopes of generating attention and business to Elloree and also various locations in town were discussed.

Councilman Fanning suggested a Committee be formed to check with neighboring towns as to their methods and charges and perhaps model Elloree similar to other towns. Councilman Void seconded the motion and all voted to accept.

**IX. New Business**

Mayor Busch asked for a motion to allow for a First reading of the 2014-2015 budget by title only and a public meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 9:30 a.m. at the Town Hall to discuss the 2014-2015 budget. Councilwoman Kim Gidron made a motion to allow, Councilman Void seconded the motion and all voted to accept.

Mayor Busch advised Council that on advice and recommendation of Auditor, Chip Summers, CPA, the Town needed to purchase Quick Books for Accounts Payable, Payroll, Cash Receipts and General Ledger. However, the Town should retain Nicholson Business Systems for Business Licenses and LawTrak. Councilman Felder made a motion to accept the recommendation of Chip Summers, CPA. Councilwoman Gidron seconded the motion and all voted to accept.

The next Town Council meeting is Monday, June 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

**X. Executive Session**

Prior to requesting Executive Session, Mayor Busch attempted to respond to the recent allegations made by Police Chief Preston Avinger regarding employee tickets. However, on recommendation of Councilman Fanning, Mayor Busch elected not to make any further comment.

Councilman Void made a motion to enter into Executive Session, Councilwoman Gidron seconded the motion and all voted to accept. In order to hear Chasity Avinger and Lin Shirer for matters pertaining to personnel and contractual issues.

Councilman Void made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Councilman Felder seconded the motion, all voted to accept. Mayor Busch stated that no decisions were made and that the Council and Mayor would continue to work together on all issues concerning personnel.

**XI. Adjournment**

Councilman Harold Void made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilman Kim Gidron. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Martin,  
Town Clerk