

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2008

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting as written. Councilman Fanning seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Phil Harris, the Executive Director of the Southeastern Rural Water Association, presented the annual Water Commission of the Year award to Ellore Water Commission Chairman Jane Singh.

Singh was nominated by General Manager Larry McDowell and was chosen by the Rural Water Association to receive the award for the work she has done with the Ellore Water System during her service as a Commissioner.

Harris also praised McDowell for his dedication and hard work, noting that the Town of Ellore has a very strong Water Commission.

Mayor Stickles reminded citizens that the officials and employees of the Water System deserve recognition for their valuable service to the Town.

V. Water Commission Report

Ellore Water Commission General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report and minutes of the September 9, 2008 water commission meeting to the council.

He said the system completed 44 work orders and billed 629 customers during September.

The system billed 347 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 19%, up from 12% in August.

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

He added that the Food Lion tank has been cleaned and there were no problems noted with the tank during that process.

He also introduced new employee Roger Jowers, a retired employee of the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division, who recently began working for the Water System.

General Manager McDowell also reported that the Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

VI. Police Report

Investigator Lin Shirer delivered the monthly report for the Ellore Police Department, reporting the following information for action taken:

19 Calls for Service

6 Arrests

3 Arrests of subjects wanted from other jurisdictions

1 Arrest for Disorderly Conduct

2 Arrests for Unlawful Possession of Open Containers

4 False Alarm Calls

2 Requests for Assistance from EMS in reference to emotionally disturbed persons

5 Requests for Assistance from the Santee Police Department

39 Traffic Stops

27 Uniform Traffic Citations

1 larceny of a pocketbook from the IGA

1 Larceny of a pocketbook from the Dollar General parking lot

In addition, Investigator Shirer noted that the Police Department utilized 43 man hours for ongoing felony drug investigations in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies.

VII. Administrator Report

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, presenting the Mayor and Council with the September financial report.

Singh also updated them regarding new accounting software being purchased for the Police Department through Nicholson Business Systems. The software will increase the ability to track tickets, court dispositions, and court revenue. Investigator Lin Shirer added that the new software will greatly aid the officers in transmitting reports to SLED.

Shirer also noted that the new system can be used for receipts, dockets, and other court related functions to streamline court administration functions. The software will be paid for with funds generated from court fines with a total cost of \$3500.00.

The Town will also host its annual Arts and Antiques Festival on October 17 and 18, 2008. The event will be held on downtown Cleveland Street and will once again feature special store sales, street vendors, live entertainment, jump castles, and food vendors.

Singh announced that the festival will open at 8:00am on Friday morning and feature a blood drive from the Regional Medical Center from 12:00-3:00pm. There will also be a street dance on Friday from 6:00-9:00pm featuring the Smile Band.

Saturday's festivities will open at 8:00am and will feature the Sugarloaf Mountain Boys from 11:00am-2:00pm. There will be a pumpkin carving contest at 2:00pm, followed by a costume contest at 2:30pm. The Just Whalin Band will play from 4:00pm-6:00pm to close out the festival on Saturday.

Trunk or Treat will be held at Joe Miller Park on Friday, October 31, 2008 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and is again co-sponsored by the Town, the Ellore Police Department, and the Pythian Sisters of Ellore Temple No. 4.

The event is designed for children under 12 years old. Admission and parking are free, and the event is open to everyone.

VIII. Old Business

The Council heard the second reading an annexation request regarding Lot#10 Monsum Court with TMS#0283-20-02-014.000. Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilman Butler. All were in favor.

There will be a public hearing on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 5:00pm at the Town Hall for any interested parties regarding the proposed annexation.

IX. New Business

Administrator Singh presented a proposed ordinance to enter into a franchise agreement with Tri-County Electric. The agreement has also been presented to South Carolina Electric and Gas to ensure that there are no conflicts with the Town's existing franchise agreement.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the ordinance by title only. Councilman Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Council reviewed a request for annexation for 740 Hampton Street, TMS#0282-12-02-010.000. Councilman Butler made a motion to approve the request, and Councilman Fanning seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman Fanning announced that Team Kids from First Baptist Church will hold their annual Bike-a-Thon on Sunday, October 19 from 3:00-5:00pm. Councilman Butler made a motion to approve the event and was seconded by Mayor Stickles. All were in favor.

Administrator Singh announced that the November Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 5:30pm because of the general election.

Singh informed the Mayor and council members that the results of the September special election were overturned. A new election has been scheduled for January by the Orangeburg County Voter Registration and Elections Office.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fanning made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 5:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer