

Minutes of Special Council Meeting Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Present: Van Stickles, Mayor
Barbara Butler, Council Member
Mike Fanning, Council Member
Milt Felder, Council Member
Harold Void, Council Member

I. Call to Order

Mayor Van Stickles called the special meeting to order at 10:02am.

II. Special Guests and Public Requests

Resident Claudette Pauling was recognized as the meeting was called at her request. She began by asking why the meeting had to be public. Mayor Stickles noted that the law requires a public meeting be held and properly advertised anytime the entire council is assembled for a meeting with anyone.

Ms. Pauling stated that her first complaint involved the children of Ellore. She stressed concern that so much credit is given to the Millers and Rubensteins for their roles in developing the town and stated that more attention should be given to black residents.

She then complained about the town's gym and the fact that there is not a school in the town limits. She then began talking about race relations and the history of segregation.

Mayor Van Stickles asked that she avoid discussing history and discuss her specific concerns. He asked what the town council can do specifically to address her concerns.

She responded by saying that the town needs to reopen the town gym for public use. The gym is currently used by the Ellore branch of the Boys and Girls Club. She said that Joe Miller Park is designed for white people and that the town needs to make it more suitable for black residents.

Ms. Pauling's next complaint was the fact that she is not on any town committees. The mayor tried to respond, along with Councilman Harold Void, but Ms. Pauling refused to allow them to speak. She then continued to yell at the mayor and

council until the police department asked her to calm down. She then chose to leave the meeting.

Mayor Stickles then addressed the issue raised regarding committees. He noted that he has not appointed Claudette Pauling to any committees or boards because of her inability to effectively communicate with him and council. He stressed that he will not appoint her to any during the remainder of his term because of her continued disrespect to the town, council, and the mayor.

Willie Booker of the Orangeburg County Boys and Girls addressed the mayor and council briefly. He thanked the town for allowing the organization to use the town's gym and noted that they appreciate the facility. He noted that the Boys and Girls Club meets at the school during the school months because the facilities are better suited during the cold months. He added that Claudette Pauling has been a supporter of the Boys and Girls Club but stressed that she does not speak for the organization when addressing the mayor and council.

Councilman Mike Fanning thanked Mr. Booker for attending and noted that the town appreciates the role that the Boys and Girls Club plays in the community. He added that the fact that the organization carefully selects employees and volunteers is important, as well.

The Mayor then addressed the issue of the gym being open for use and stated that the gym is open through the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Booker and Laura Ferguson, another employee of the organization, stated that they are currently using the school facilities because they are better suited for use and because of transportation issues. He noted that attendance is better at the school.

Mr. Booker added that the Boys and Girls Club is seeking grants for facility improvements and has met several times with Orangeburg County. The Mayor thanked Mr. Booker and Ms. Ferguson for attending the meeting and for their work with the organization.

The mayor and council then discussed the gym usage. Council agreed that the topic should be reviewed at the next council meeting.

III. **New Business**

The hours for the Town Hall have been changed. The new hours are 9:00-4:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, which went into effect on October 22.

Councilman Mike Fanning made a motion to prohibit Claudette Pauling from addressing council for the next six months, due to her continued belligerent and disruptive behavior during council meetings. He noted that the six month prohibition period is allowable under the Town's approved Procedure for Addressing Council during Meetings. His motion was seconded by Councilman Milt Felder and all were in favor. A letter will be sent notifying her of council's decision.

The next Town Council meeting is Monday, November 12, 2012. There will also be a public hearing held at 5:00pm the same day to discuss the town's business licensing ordinance.

IV. Adjournment

Councilman Harold Void made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilman Barbara Butler. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 10:17am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Winningham, Town Clerk