

## **Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

**Present:** Van A. Stickles, Mayor  
Barbara Butler, Council Member  
Michael Fanning, Council Member  
Chasity Sanders Canaday, Clerk/Treasurer  
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 Michael Fanning made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2008 meeting as written. Councilman Barbara Butler seconded. All were in favor.

### **IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment**

Francis Waite and Liz Gillen from the South Carolina Forestry Commission were recognized to make a presentation recognizing the Town of Ellore's designation as a Tree City USA town. They presented a flag from the National Arbor Foundation and a plaque in honor of the town's designation.

The Town is one of only 39 communities in the State to receive this designation.

Mayor Stickles also announced that he has been chosen to serve on the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He will be officially appointed in January.

## **V. Water Commission Report**

Ellore Water Commission General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report and minutes of the August 12, 2008 water commission meeting to the council.

He said the system completed 44 work orders and billed 642 customers during August.

The system billed 349 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 12%, down from 20% in July.

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 Ellore Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00pm at the Ellore Water System.

## **VI. Police Report**

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

**14 Calls for Service**

**8 Arrests**

**2 Arrests of subjects wanted from other jurisdictions**

**1 Arrest for Simple Possession of Marijuana**

**5 Arrests stemming from one incident that occurred on Harlin Street. Charges included First Degree Burglary, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, and Assault with Intent to Kill.**

**2 False Alarm Calls**

**1 Loud Music Complaint**

**3 Requests for Assistance from the Santee Police Department**

**43 Traffic Stops**

**28 Uniform Traffic Citations**

Chief Avinger also commended Officer Shawn Murphree for action above and beyond the call of duty. He noted that Officer Murphree's quick response to a call after hours while off-duty led to the immediate capture of one of the subjects involved in the Assault and Burglary that occurred on Harlin Street.

In addition, due to hard work and long hours, Investigator Lin Shirer and Officer Murphree quickly identified, located, and arrested the other four principle suspects in that incident.

He thanked them both and commended them for a job well done. Mayor Stickles added that he felt like a commendation was well deserved but not enough to truly reflect the job that Murphree performed.

Councilman Barbara Butler noted that she believes the Town has wonderful police officers, and she thanked them for the job they do.

Following the August 5 council meeting, the Police Department hosted its first Law Enforcement Forum, which was a success and well-attended. Chief Avinger reminded citizens that he is always available to the public for concerns.

The Police Department also hosted a Senior Forum on August 7. Tony Kester, Interim Director of the Lt. Governor's Office, was present with staff members to assist seniors. The Police Department will hold another public information session for seniors to assist with Medicare open enrollment and issues.

## **VII. Administrator Report**

Administrator John Singh delivered the Administrator's report, presenting the Mayor and Council with the unofficial July year-end financial reports and the August 2008 financial report.

He also reported on his recent meeting with Town Auditor Chip Summers and accounting firm Schmoyer and Company regarding new accounting regulations. The Town is utilizing Schmoyer and Company to meet new accounting requirements and to produce monthly and quarterly financial statements for the Town.

He noted that he received the 2007-08 financial statement from the Ellore Heritage Museum. That report is required by the Town in conjunction with its annual funding for the Museum.

Singh delivered an update on hurricane preparation, noting that the Town did not experience any issues from Hanna. He added that the Town, the Water System, and the Police Department worked together to ensure that the town did not experience any disruption in services.

Singh thanked Chief Avinger and Officer Lin Shirer for staying at the Police Department throughout that evening.

He also reminded residents and businesses to pull trash cans in after they are emptied each week to avoid damage. He also noted that Monday holidays will push trash service back a day from the usual Thursday pick-up.

Singh announced that the Ellore Municipal Court has been rescheduled in October from October 2 to October 16. It will still be held at 6:00pm.

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. There are still vendor spaces available, and interested people were encouraged to contact the Town Hall.

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 Ellore Heritage Museum will host its Low Country Boil on Saturday, October 4 at the Museum. Tickets are available at the Museum, and entertainment will be provided by the Moonlighters.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

Administrator Singh reminded residents that a special election is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7 to fill the remaining term of the late Councilman Barry Pauling, who served Council District 2. This election will be a write-in election with voting hours from 7:00am-7:00pm in the courtroom at the Ellore Town Hall.

#### **IX. New Business**

Because of the election, the October town council meeting will be rescheduled for October 14, 2008.

The Citizens Advisory Committee for Parks and Recreation will be held at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at the Town Hall.

Mayor Van Stickles presented a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing September 9, 2008 as International Literacy Day. He also took that time to stress the importance of literacy programs and the value of the Mentor Book Club of Ellore. The Book Club was established in 1951 and has maintained the town's library since 1953.

Mayor Stickle also presented a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing the week of September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup> as Lions Club Sight and Hearing Conservation Week and October 3<sup>rd</sup> as Lions Club Candy Day.

The Mayor also presented a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing September 17<sup>th</sup> as Constitution Day in Ellore. The request was given by Nell Irick of Eutaw Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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

The second reading of the request will be held in October. A public hearing will be scheduled after that meeting but prior to the final reading in November.

**X. Executive Session\*\*\***

There was no executive session.

**XI. Adjournment**

Councilman Barbara Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Mike Fanning seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickle adjourned the meeting at 6:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chasity Sanders Canaday, Town Clerk/Treasurer