

Minutes of Council Meeting Tuesday, September 1, 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
Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk

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 Jimmy Fogle made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting as written. Councilman Harold Void seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Special Guest OR Public Request or Comment

Mayor Van Stickles introduced Danielle Sanders, who will work in the Town Hall on a part-time basis to assist the Clerk.

The Mayor introduced the new members of the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals. Appointees present included Chip Davis (appointed as an at-large member by Mayor Stickles), Najiyah Bey (appointed from District 1 by Councilman Butler), Anne Felder (appointed from District 3 by Councilman Fogle), and Robert "Edgie" Ketcherside (appointed from District 4 by Councilman Fanning). All four were sworn in.

Board of Zoning Appeals appointee Dorothy Greene from District 2 (Councilman Void) will be sworn in during the October 5 council meeting.

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals serve three year terms and are required to complete six years of certified training during their first year of service and three hours of certified training during each subsequent year of service.

CPA Dwight "Chip" Summers of Brodie, Summers & Wilkes of Orangeburg presented the Town's audit for the 2007-08 fiscal year. He reported that the Town received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest that can be received.

Total revenue of the Town was \$631,000 with 24% coming from the State of South Carolina, 31% coming from property taxes, and the rest from other revenue sources included grants and business license fees. Total assets for the Town were \$1,111,000.00 and assets for the Water System were \$3,254,000.00. Total liabilities for the Town were \$594,000 and liabilities for the Water System were \$1,687,000.

He also presented a breakdown of debt for the Town and the Water System. He encouraged the Mayor and Council Members to review the audit and contact him with questions. He added that the 2008-09 audit will start within the next two weeks.

Andrew Friedman of the Ellore Business Association addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the Association's formation and current plans. Friedman, who co-owns The Antique Box, will serve as President of the Association. Linda Childers of Ellore Square Antique Mall will serve as Vice-President, Libby Salisbury of the Backstreet Bar and Grill will serve as Treasurer, and Edwina Friedman will serve as Secretary.

The Association will hold their next meeting on September 14 at 6:00pm at Backstreet Bar and Grill.

Joe Murphy of Farmers Road, Ellore addressed the Mayor and Council regarding a complaint against the Police Department. On August 25, 2009 Mr. Murphy's car stalled on Highway 6 where it was discovered by the Ellore Police Department. Because the car was blocking the right lane of traffic, the Police Department had the vehicle towed. Mr. Murphy returned several hours later and discovered that his vehicle had been towed, and he filed a complaint against the Police Department the following day. He requested that he be reimbursed for towing expenses and his request was denied by Mayor Stickles.

Mayor Stickles offered the Town Council the opportunity to overrule his decision, but no such motion was made. His decision was upheld and will be considered final.

V. Water Commission Report

Elloree Water System General Manager Larry McDowell presented the monthly report to the council and the minutes of the Water Commission's August 11, 2009 meeting.

He said the system completed 42 work orders and billed 662 customers during July.

The system billed 350 customers on behalf of the town for household trash services. The estimated water loss was 21%, up from 19% in July.

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

McDowell also reported that the Water system will be working to replace approximately 30 valves in town. He added that a contractor has been hired to do extensive flushing of all of the fire hydrants in town, which should alleviate the red water issues experienced by water customers. Water customers will receive prior notification of the flushing project and any expected water outages currently scheduled for September 14.

Elloree Water Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Elloree Water System.

VI. Police Report

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

- **19 Calls for service**
- **7 Arrests**
- **59 Uniform traffic tickets**
- **1 Case of Vandalism on Fair Street (Truck Windows Broken)**
- **3 Domestic**
- **5 Alarms**
- **4 Bench Warrant Arrests**
- **2 Arrests for Wanted Subjects out of Other Jurisdictions**
- **4 Assists to Other Agencies**

Investigator Shirer discussed statutes and local ordinances regarding golf carts on roadways due to recent complaints regarding children on golf carts around town.

Clerk Canaday presented the Police Fines Report for the month of August, showing the following totals:

- **Total Fines Collected: \$6018.00**
- **Remitted to State Treasurer: \$3476.29**
- **Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$392.01**
- **Revenue Retained by Town: \$2149.70**

***Approval of expenditures of these funds will be done at the end of the calendar quarter, ending after September 30, 2009.**

VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report

Clerk Chasity Canaday presented the August 2009 financial reports for the Town, with copies of the Revenue and Expense reports from that month.

She also presented the Mayor and Council with an updated schedule for the remainder of the 2009 calendar year, which included the revised Town Council meeting schedule and Municipal Court schedule, office closings due to Federal/State holidays, special events, and Museum events.

The Clerk updated the Mayor and Council regarding Fall Fest, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 10 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. A Fall Fest planning meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 11:00am at the Town Hall courtroom.

She also clarified the Yard Sale ordinance, citing some confusion over permits. The Town's yard sale ordinance allows for two yard sales per property with the procurement of a \$5.00 permit. Property owners may hold one additional yard sale each year with no fee on the day of the Town's annual town-wide yard sale, known as Trash to Treasures, held each spring.

The Clerk noted that the Business page of the Town's website has been updated with the Ellore Heritage Museum as the featured business at this time. The Business page also includes a listing of all business license holders, and residents were encouraged to refer to that list when seeking services for their residences and businesses.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

The Mayor and Council reviewed Ordinance 09-01-09-1, which is an amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance Section 6-100 pertaining to the Zoning Administrator. The current ordinance states that the Town Administrator will serve as the Zoning Administrator. The Clerk recommended that the language "Town Administrator" be changed to "person appointed by the Mayor" for the purposes of the Zoning Ordinance.

Councilman Fanning made a motion to approve the amendment with the addition of a requirement that the Zoning Administrator deliver a report of all decisions to council each month. Councilman Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilman Fanning also made a motion to allow the Mayor to temporarily appoint a Zoning Administrator until the amendment is approved. Councilman Butler seconded and all were in favor.

Mayor Stickles made a motion to appoint Clerk Chasity Canaday as Zoning Administrator and was seconded by Councilman Void. All were in favor.

A public hearing will be held on Monday October 5, 2009 at 5:00pm, and second reading of the ordinance amendment will be held during the Town Council meeting at 5:30pm on that same day.

The third and final reading should be held during the November Town Council meeting, scheduled for November 2, 2009 at 5:30pm. The amendment will go into effect in November 2009, if approved.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2009.

X. Executive Session***

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Fogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Butler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Van Stickles adjourned the meeting at 6:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chasity D. Canaday, Town Clerk