

## **Minutes of Council Meeting Monday, November 9, 2015**

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

Robin Newton, Town Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Stan Busch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**II. Opening Prayer**

Council Member Mike Fanning provided the invocation.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Stan Busch made a motion to look over the minutes from the September 14, 2015, 2015 Council Meeting, as written. Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 Council Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harold Void and all were in favor. Mayor Stan Busch made a motion to look over the minutes from the October 13, 2015, 2015 Council Meeting, as written. Council Member Milt Felder made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Council Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mike Fanning and all were in favor.

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

Mayor Stan Busch recognized Mr. Tripp Wingard and Mr. Marty Murdaugh of Murdaugh & Associates, CPA, LLC. located in Orangeburg, SC. Mr. Tripp gave a presentation on the June 30, 2014 audit for the Town of Ellore. Mr. Tripp went over the audit report book and the town of Ellore received a un-qualify, which is a clean opinion. Mayor Stan Busch asked what is the bottom line and Mr. Tripp state that the town is in good shape.

Mayor Stan Busch recognized Mr. Harold Donnelly a business owner in Ellore. Mr. Harold concerns are with the commercial property in Ellore. He wanted to know if the Mayor and Council would consider putting a committee together to help fill the commercial building here in Ellore. He also wanted the Mayor and Council to look at the tax rate in town to see if there is any way of getting any relief in this area. Mr. Harold also has concerns about the Town Ordinance on commercial

buildings located within the 2700 hundred block of Cleveland Street. He stated that he believes one of the commercial building located on Cleveland Street has had a renter on the bottom floor for over a year and that this is in violation of Town Ordinance. Council Member Mike Fanning stated that the town is working on updating the Zoning Ordinance and once this is completed we will have a better look at all the zoning ordinance. Mr. Harold state that if renting out the commercial building is ok to do, then his concern is that all the commercial buildings will become apartments.

Mayor Stan Busch recognized Ms. Claudette Pauling a long time residence here in Elloree. Ms. Pauling concerns are with employment for our youth and the use of Joe Miller Park. Ms. Pauling also wanted to know how to contact the Joe Miller Park Foundation to help fund different things for our youth. Mayor Busch informed Ms. Pauling that if she would contact Town Hall the next day we could help her with the information she was looking for.

**V. Water Commission Report**

Ms. Jane Singh presented the monthly report for the Elloree Water System. There were 92 work orders in October and 649 water customers billed. Water loss was at 33% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

Ms. Jane stated that the reason for such high percentage of water lost for October was due to the main water line that broke during the flood. However, all the issues have been fixed and they are putting in place some prevented maintenance techniques that will help in the future.

The Elloree Water Commission will hold its next meeting on November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

**VI. Police Report**

Chief Preston Avinger presented the Police Report for October 2015. During the month the police department responded to (10) calls for request for service and arrested (17) individuals.

**1. Reportable and Non-Reportable incidents.**

A. Incidents that were solved or closed by arrest are as follows;

- (1) Arrest for Littering,
- (2) arrest for Poss. of Marijuana,
- (6) arrest for Driving with Open Container,
- (4) arrest for Driving Under Suspension,
- (2) arrest for Driving Under the Influence,

- (1) arrest for Possession of Liquor under the age of 21, and
- (1) arrest of a subject who was listed as "WANTED" from the Town of Manning.

B. Other Incidents or Events included the following

- (2) False alarm calls....(1) commercial and (1) residential,
- (1) domestic calls that were verbal only,
- (3) assisting other agencies upon request,
- (1) 911 hang up call,
- (1) shoplifting call where the subject was identified and warrants have been issued.

**2. Uniform Traffic Tickets**

The Police Department conducted (42) Safety Check Points and issued (24) Uniform Traffic Tickets. \*Note....Some Traffic Tickets may be for other criminal offences not related to traffic.

**3. Other Activities**

1. During the month of October, Chief Avinger attended the South Carolina Police Chief's Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach.
2. The Ellore Police Department had all hands on deck for Halloween. Chief Avinger and Officer Dwayne Duckson handed out candy and patrolled Joe Miller Park for Trunk or Treats. Officer Lin Shirer patrolled the town for the safety of the few children who still go door to door.

**VII. Clerk/ Treasurer Report**

Ms. Robin Newton presented the monthly clerk/treasurer report. The Police Fines Report for the month of September, showed the following totals:

- Total Fines Collected: \$3995.50
- Remitted to State Treasurer: \$1949.49
- Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$455.66
- Revenue Retained by Town: \$1590.35 (Placed in Savings)

The Police Fines Report for the month of October, showed the following totals:

- Total Fines Collected: \$9037.00
- Remitted to State Treasurer: \$4633.14
- Retained in Victims Assistance: \$941.09
- Revenue Retained by Town: \$3462.77 (Placed in Savings)

Council Members reviewed the financial report for September 2015

along with the copies of the Revenue and Expenditures report in their binders. Council Member Harold Void moved to accept the financial reports. Council Member Milt Felder seconded the motion and all voted to accept.

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Ms. Robin gave an update on the Trunk or Treats that was held on October 31, 2015 at Joe Miller Park. There was around 600 kids that came out for this event and we are so grateful we were able to put this event on for our kids. I would like to thank everyone for participating in this annual event and also a big thank you to everyone that helped make Trunk or Treats a big success.

Ms. Robin also wanted to let everyone know that the Ellore Small Town Christmas will be December 12, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate in the Parade, there are Instructions and Registration forms on the Town's website or you can get them at Town Hall. Please remember this is a night parade so make sure your floats have lights on them so everyone can see who you are.

**VIII. Old Business**

Mayor Busch gave an update on the banners that the town is looking at purchasing. After looking over the three bids that were submitted for the cost of the banners Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion to authorize the capital outlay out of the reserve funds not to amend the 2015/2016 budget to included \$8140.00 for the recommendation from the mayor. Council Member Harold Void seconded the motion, all we in favor.

Mayor Busch informed council that there will be a meeting with FEMA on Friday, November 13, 2015 at 1:00 pm to discuss the trees that are down in Lyon's Park. The tree damage is from the flood and FEMA has stated they will help pay for the cleanup. There has been two bids put in for the cleanup of the trees however, after the latest rains there has been more damage to the root of the trees. Therefore, the town will have to get new bids for the cost of the cleanup. After the meeting with FEMA on Friday there will more discussion on this matter.

Mayor Busch spoke about the Orangeburg County Litter Blitz that was held during October 24<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Busch thanked Council Member Mike Fanning

for getting a youth group of over 17 together from the Ellore First Baptist Church to pick up litter at Joe Miller Park, around the Gym, the walking trail, down part of Racetrack Road and the old ball field. However, the Town of Ellore stills needs to get several groups together all on the same day to pick up litter. This way when the job is done the entire town will be clean. Council Member Harold Void stated that this would be a great time for the town to come together as a whole to beautify Ellore.

Mayor Busch spoke about the work around Ellore that is schedule to be done using the Penny Sales Tax. The punch list that was put together by the general contractor did not included the addition to Town Hall. Therefore Mayor Busch is going to get a punch list done on the addition and add it to the original list. Then there will be an ad run in the paper for bids on the work.

Mayor Busch informed council that Orangeburg County has sent a list of contactors that they contacted to remove the asbestos from the Gym. To have asbestos removed is an expensive process however, if this matter is not handle properly there could be fines. Council Member Milt Felder made a motion to use M.A.C. Environmental to remove the asbestos from the Gym, Council Member Harold Void seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Busch gave an update on the Town of Ellore General Election held on November 3, 2015. Everything went well during the election and Harold Void still holds Council Seat for District 2, Milt Felder still holds Council Seat for District 3, and Jane Singh still holds the Water Commissioner Seat.

**IX. New Business**

Mayor Stan Busch spoke concerning some of the active committees in Ellore. He made a recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Committee be approved with Jack Lane, Chairman, Derrick Dash Co-Chairman, Sara Ann Paler, and Chris Carver. Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion to accept the members , Council Member Kim Gidron seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Busch asked Council to accept Mr. Chris Carver as the new Zoning Administrator. Council Member Harold Void made a motion to accept Chris Carver as the new Zoning Administrator, Council Member Mike Fanning seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Stan Busch stated that the Planning Commission for the Town of Ellore has two members Daisy Pauling, and Sara Ann Fogle, however, this committee needs at least five members. Finding people who are willing to serve on committees has not been an easy process therefore, the mayor feels that bringing people in from outside the city limits that owns property in the city limits, could be away to fill these spots. Mayor Busch had a few names that he would like council to consider for this committee: Linda Childers, Ray Oliver, Anita Ansari, Jack Lane, and Chris Finch. Council Member Harold Void made a motion to accept the new members, Council Member Milt Felder seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Stan Busch recommends that Council accepts the members as stated for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Angelia Kinley, Richard Bochette, Ann Felder, Robert Ketcherside, and David Daniels. Council Member Milt Felder made a motion to except the members , Council Member Harold Void seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Stan Busch stated now that the committees are in place the next line of business will be getting the Zoning Ordinance up to date. Also the Town Ordinances have to be updated. There are some ordinances that have been amended throughout the years but we need to put together a new ordinance book with all the updates. This process is going to take some time to make sure all the information is correct. We will have to go through the council minutes from past meetings. Once this process is complete the new information will be looked over by an attorney. Council Member Mike Fanning referred back to the budget and the cost for this process that could be very costly for the town. Ellore has adopted some ordinances from Orangeburg County so a lot of the ordinance are up to date. The budget for 2015/2016 has already been approved for extra help in Town Hall. Therefore, this would be a great time to bring that help in to assist Ms. Robin in going through this process. Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion for the Mayor and Ms. Robin to hire extra help in Town Hall to help with this process and to cross train with Ms. Robin. Council Member Harold Void seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Stan Busch recognized Patricia VanBuren a representative from the Williams Funeral Home who is asking the town to consider removing part of the median in front of the Funeral Home. The median impedes the proposed traffic from the parking lot. After hearing the argument Council decided to have a public hearing to see what the citizens of Ellore thinks about the matter. The median is part of the Street Cape that was done in Ellore in 1999. This was a costly project that helped with the beautification of Ellore. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

Mayor Stan Busch spoke about the resurfacing the tennis court located at Joe Miller Park. The courts are in very bad need of resurfacing. After a short discussion Council Member asked that the Mayor table this matter until more information can be collected.

Mayor Stan Busch spoke about the damage to the trees located in Lyon's Park. The flood washed out a good bit of the bank along the creek, which made two trees fall over in the park. Mayor Busch got two quotes to clean up the trees however, now that we have had more rain, there is more damage to the bank along the creek. This matter has been table until new quotes to clean up the trees can be obtained with the new damage.

The next Town 'Council Meeting will be December 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm in Town Hall.

**X. Executive Session**

Mayor Busch requested that Council go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters. Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion, Council Member Kim Gidron seconded the motion, all voted to accept and went into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m..

Council Member Harold Void made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. and Council Member Milt Felder seconded the motion, all voted to accept.

Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion to give all town employees a raise. Council Member Harold Void second the motion, all were in favor.

Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion to hold a public meeting for Williams Funeral Home to express their concerns on having part of the median in front of their business removed. Council Member Harold Void second the motion, all were in favor. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

Council Member Mike Fanning made a motion for the Town of Elloree to reimburse the Town of Santee for the certification and training received by Officer Dwayne Duckson. Council Member Milt Felder second the motion, all were in favor.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mayor Busch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Council Member Mike Fanning seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Newton,  
Town Clerk