

**Minutes of Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 08, 2020
5:30 PM**

Present: Mike Fanning, Mayor
Chip Davis, Council Member
Laurence Livingston, Council Member
Bill Brandenburg, Council Member
Kim Gidron, Council Member
Earl Kinley, Assistant Chief of Police
Freda Trupiano, Town Clerk
Leslie Furtick, Clerk of Court

● **Call to Order**

Mayor Mike Fanning called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

● **Opening Prayer**

Mayor Fanning provided the invocation and lead everyone with the Pledge of Allegiance.

● **Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Bill Brandenburg made a motion to approve the minutes from May 11, 2020. Council Member Kim Gidron seconded the motion to approve the minutes and all were in favor.

● **Water Commission Report**

Cole Dantzler presented monthly reports for the Elloree Water System.

There were 46 work orders in March and 652 water customers billed. Estimated water loss was at 38% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

There were 41 work orders in April and 656 water customers billed. Estimated Water loss was at 29% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

There were 44 work orders in April and 656 water customers billed. Estimated water loss was at 28% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

The current CCR report (2019) has been published and available for public viewing. A notification was placed in the T&D to inform the public to call the EWS office to view the report and or obtain a copy of the report. The report is also posted at the Ellore Post Office, Ellore Town Hall, and on the website at elloreesc.com

The First Reading of the 2021 Budget will be on the agenda for the next monthly meeting of the commissioner's which is Tuesday, June 09, 2020 at 6 pm.

- **Public Comments, Concerns, Information or Recommendations to Council**

Public Comments, Concerns, Information, or Recommendations to Council can be emailed to Town Hall and read at meeting into official Council minutes.

- **Police Report**

Mayor Fanning read aloud the written Police Report for the month of May 2020, submitted to Council by Chief Shawn Murphree.

The department responded to 41 calls for service and 51 tickets were issued.

- **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fanning reported that Detective Chris Golden has resigned from the Department. Detective Golden has accepted the Police Chief's position for the Town of Eutawville, SC. He stated that Detective Golden was an asset to town and will be missed. He said that Detective Golden is still important to us as we have Mutual Aid to the town of Eutawville. The Town Hall staff also complimented Detective Golden on his willingness to assist them whenever needed.

Mayor Fanning stated that even though several people have inquired about the open position, the Department will be patient and deliberate in filling the position. He said that Chief Murphree and Assistant Chief Kinley work tirelessly for the town. He stated that they are in no hurry to fill the position.

Mayor Fanning announced that Ms. Kay Shirer's grandson, Jake Shirer, will be working at Loyn's Park Picnic Shelter in the next few days. Jake chose to pressure wash and paint the shelter for his project to earn his Eagle Badge. He will also replace the birdbath and fix a couple of other things.

Mayor Fanning presented an updated facility agreement for use of the Hungerpiller Ballfield. The updated agreement/lease form defines rules and regulations along with a \$10 rental fee for a full day's rental.

He also announced that an updated form for JMP Gasque Shelter is in progress due to rentals that also include a water slide. There will be an additional surcharge for the use of water for the water slides.

Mayor Fanning announced that per Mr. Michael Ulmer, the town sign could possibly be delivered by the end of June or first of July.

● **Streets and Parks Report**

Council Member Chip Davis reported that the Streets and Parks Department has acquired a new air compressor and two new weed eaters. He stated the Department is doing a good job.

Council Member Bill Brandenburg announced that he had received a comment from several people in town of how well the Department is doing. With all the spring pruning, there has been a tremendous amount of yard debris generated. Council Member Brandenburg wanted to make sure that recognition was given in the official minutes of the meeting for Council Member Chip Davis, Mr. Lindsey Wiles and Mr. Phil Moore for doing such a good job keeping up with the demand.

Mayor Fanning has submitted two written requests to Orangeburg County for their assistance in getting the new dump site ready. He also stated that the current site needs to be pushed by the County in order to continue to be utilized. He plans to contact our County Councilman later this week to ask for assistance in getting this done.

- **Clerk/ Treasurer Report**

Ms. Freda Trupiano presented the clerk/treasurer report for May 2020.

She also gave the Police Fines Report for the month of May 2020.

The Police Fines Report for the month of May 2020, showed the following totals:

- Total Fines Collected: \$899.73
- Remitted to State Treasurer: \$561.40
- Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$59.49
- Revenue Retained by Town: \$278.84 (Placed in Savings)

Ms. Trupiano also stated that more income is expected to be received during the month of June and should be reflected in next month's report.

- **Old Business**

Mayor Fanning asked if there were any questions for concerns about the 2017 Audit that was received last month. There were no questions.

He reported that the new auditor is already working hard to complete the 2018 budget. He anticipates that the town will be paying for two audits in the new fiscal year (2018 and 2019) to bring us up to date.

- **New Business**

The 2nd Reading of the 2020-21 Town of Elloree Budget in Title only was tabled to get a better understanding of projected revenue numbers. Due to shutdowns that resulted from CO-VID 19, there is some anticipation that some cities will see a 10-13 percent loss in tax revenues and are adjusting their budgets accordingly. He asked Council to consider a budget workshop for one evening next week.

Mayor Fanning discussed options for the annual 4th of July celebration. Several factors were discussed and considered before making a decision:

1. Mr. Mike Holbert, the certified operator of Mike's Fireworks is not available to conduct the show on July 4th due to prior commitments. A proximate audience display permit and licensed operators will have to be obtained on short notice.
2. One of the civic groups, The Pythian Sisters, are not equipped to safely handle the food under the CO-VID 19 distancing requirements and have decided not to participate this year.
3. Other municipalities have cancelled their fireworks display for this year.
4. In the backdrop of the CO-VID 19 pandemic and rising positive cases of the virus being documented, it was felt that large get-togethers this July be postponed.

Council Member Chip Davis made a motion to postpone the 4th of July celebration in hopes of being able to have a celebration around Labor Day. Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mayor Fanning reported that he has spoken to Orangeburg County about the Penny Sales Tax funding that is anticipated to be made available in September of this year. It is expected that the town will receive \$194,000 designated for town properties and \$17,000 designated for parks and recreation. Mayor Fanning discussed possible projects.

1. Erect 2nd picnic shelter @ JMP (possibly two additional) with one designated for Seniors
2. A simple renovation of the building beside Town Hall for a Welcome-Center and downtown restrooms.
3. New chain link fence on the back side of Hungerpiller Ballfield and drive thru gate
4. Sand and paint the Depot.
5. 5 bay storage area behind the maintenance shop to replace the existing tin shelter.

Council Member Bill Brandenburg added that there needs to be an improved area and bridge at Loyns Park at the flowing well.

Mayor Fanning discussed plans to have a plexiglass window installed at the front counter in Town Hall.

Mayor Fanning also announced that security cameras have been installed at Town Hall.

Mayor Fanning announced that he will be meeting with Orangeburg County Council about funding available to renovate the gym for the Boys and Girls Club. He stated that Ellore has not yet asked for the money available for this district from our County Councilman.

Mayor Fanning and Council discussed having both a Citizen of the Year Award and also a Business of the Year Award.

Mayor Fanning made a motion to implement a Citizen of the Year Award beginning next month. Council Member Kim Gidron seconded the motion and all were in favor. Council Member Laurence Livingston made a motion to implement a Business of the Year Award. Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

● **Adjournment**

Council Member Kim Gidron made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Council Member Bill Brandenburg. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Freda Trupiano
Town Clerk