

**Minutes of Town Council Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020
5:30 PM**

Present: Mike Fanning, Mayor
Chip Davis, Council Member
Bill Brandenburg, Council Member
Kim Gidron, Council Member
Shawn Murphree, Chief of Police
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 Chip Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 town council meeting; July 13, 2020 Public Hearing; and July 23, 2020 Special Called meeting. Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion to approve the minutes and all were in favor.

● **Water Commission Report**

Cole Dantzler presented monthly reports for the Ellore Water System.

There were 43 work orders in June and 650 water customers billed. Estimated water loss was at 27% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

Also, the water department did not cut off customers or have any late fees accessed during March-June due to COVID-19.

She also stated that a professional company has been hired to patch the asphalt that has been disturbed due to repairs.

Meters are being replaced. The meters were last replaced in 2006 and typically last 10-12 years.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Council Member Chip Davis asked if there was a flushing schedule in place.

Ms. Dantzler stated that flushing occurs once a week. Recently, they discovered that a paving company was using the water from the hydrants near Highway Six and that resulted in the water being stirred up and discolored.

- **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**

Assistant Chief Earl Kinley presented the Police Report for the month of July 2020.

The department responded to 52 calls for service and 49 tickets were issued.

Chief Murphree attended training at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

- **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fanning announced that the electronic video sign has been installed at Joe Miller Park. It will display official town announcements, community events, school news, and museum notices. He also stated there will also be paid advertisements that will help to cover the costs of maintenance of the sign.

He asked Council about the placement angle of the sign. Currently, it sits diagonally to Highway Six. Council Member Davis made a motion to have the sign moved to be placed parallel to Hwy Six. Council Member Bill Brandenburg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The sign will be moved before it is fully operational.

● **Streets and Parks Report**

Council Member Chip Davis reported that the Streets and Parks Department is doing a good job and trying to stay caught up with the debris pick up.

For informational purposes, Ms. Trupiano added that the department picks up debris on Monday and Tuesdays of each week.

Council Member Davis reminded everyone that limbs to be picked up should not exceed 4 feet in length. If they do, the department has been instructed not to pick them up.

Mayor Fanning added that residents may have seen long limbs piled by the curbs recently. Those were the work of a private contractor and were not picked up by the Town.

● **Clerk/ Treasurer Report**

Ms. Freda Trupiano presented the clerk/treasurer report for July 2020. Mayor Fanning noted that the reporting period was for July 2020-July 2021. Upon approval of the budget for 2020-2021, the reporting will reflect only totals for the current fiscal year.

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

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

- Total Fines Collected: \$6422.50
- Remitted to State Treasurer: \$3795.65
- Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$260.90
- Revenue Retained by Town: \$2365.95 (Placed in Savings)

● **Old Business**

Mayor Fanning announced that the Town of Elloree is proposing the adoption of a Code Enforcement Ordinance and the hiring of an outside company to perform code enforcement work within the town. A Public Hearing will be scheduled later in regards to this.

Mayor Fanning stated that he would be announcing a budget workshop sometime next week. Most of the budget will be similar to last year's budget. He asked that Council think about whether or not to increase the property tax. An increase of one mil would

generate approximately \$3000. The town is limited to 1.18 mils increase based upon inflation and census data.

Mayor Fanning and the Council discussed changing the terms for the rental of the Elloree Ball Field and making sure the rental agreement states that the facility is a “play at your own risk” which means that the renter holds the town harmless for accidents, injuries, and damage to vehicles. He asked Council to review the current lease agreement form and consider if any changes to the agreement are needed.

Policy Questions:

1. Should rental option be for full day or half day?
2. Rental cost?
3. How many weeks in advance may the field be reserved?
4. Does the Lessee have to be at the event site?
5. What should the Town of Elloree do in the event that terms of the agreement are not met?
 - a. The current agreement states that the Lessee has lost the right to rent the field in the future.

Mayor Fanning stated that anyone who conducts commercial transactions on the ballfield needs to buy a business license and added that alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

As consideration, He asked Council to think about areas of improvement:

1. Restrooms-possibly repair restrooms in front of the gym and the restrooms are included in the rental (rental charge must include restroom clean-up)
2. Field clean-up-growth under bleachers and fence, etc.
3. Repair/Replace fencing of residential side of field (as requested by adjacent property owners)
4. Parking-what is possible inside instead of the side yards of property owners

Mayor Fanning stated the current rental is \$10 per day and does not include any punitive fees which encourages use of the field. He added that the town wants the field to be used.

He reminded Council of the possibility of using the Penny Sales Tax funds and also potential money from the Orangeburg County Council for recreation in Elloree for improvements to the property.

Chief Murphree recommended not renting the field until restrooms are available. If there are no facilities, visitors to the field relieve themselves in between parked cars. Chief Murphree stated that the law changed in 2017 and urinating in public could technically be indecent exposure which could result in being listed on the sex offender list.

He added that he would support Council with whatever decision they make.

Council Member Bill Brandenburg reviewed the policy questions and stated he felt that both full and half day rentals at \$10 and rented up to two weeks in advance seemed reasonable.

Council will review the lease agreement and consider the areas of improvement and this will be on the agenda for next month's council meeting.

- **New Business**

Mayor Fanning announced that because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and also due to the Governor's Executive Order that limits festivals to 250 and under, The Town of Elloree will not be sponsoring any Labor Day events.

The Fall Trash to Treasures has been postponed and no date has been established at this time.

- **Executive Session**

Council Member Chip Davis made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matter. It was seconded by Council Member Laurence Livingston. Council entered into executive session at 6:02 pm.

Council Member Kim Gidron made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:11 pm. It was seconded by Council member Laurence Livingston.

Executive Session adjourned at 6:12 pm.

- **Adjournment**

Council returned to the Council Chambers at 6:12 pm. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Council Member Bill Brandenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Council Member Chip Davis. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Freda Trupiano
Town Clerk