

Minutes of Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
5:30 PM

Present: Mike Fanning, Mayor
Chip Davis, Council Member
Bill Brandenburg, Council Member
Kim Gidron, Council Member
Laurence Livingston, Council Member
Shawn Murphree, Chief of Police
Freda Trupiano, Town Clerk

● **Call to Order**

Mayor Mike Fanning called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 September 14, 2020 town council meeting and the minutes of the October 08, 2020 2020-21 Budget Public Hearing. 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 Elloree Water System.

There were 39 work orders in September and 655 water customers billed. Estimated water loss was at 19% for the month. The water and wastewater facilities and bacti were in compliance with DHEC for the month.

Council member Chip Davis asked Ms. Dantzler about status of pavement repairs and also reported areas that need attention located on Barkley, Sunset, and

Hungerpillar. Ms. Dantzler stated that all the approved repairs are completed and the budget is limited because there was no rate increase this year.

Ms. Dantzler stated a new metering system will be in place within the next two months with the one percent money. The new meters are expected to bring in lost revenue.

Mayor Fanning asked Ms. Dantzler to find out from the Water Commissioners the available capacity for sewer. He stated he has met with developers who are looking at the Santee, Ellore, Holly Hill, and Manning area as Walmart looks to build a distribution center and as Volvo continues to grow. He has met with two developers who are looking at land just outside of town and Council feels having the available capacity information would be very beneficial to the developers.

Ms. Dantzler will submit the minutes from the September meeting as soon as they are completed.

The next Monthly Commissioner's Meeting is October 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

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

None at this time. It is noted that Ms. Claudette Pauling was on the agenda to follow-up with Council about Transportation, Volunteers for Committees, and Available Grants. She was unable to attend; however, she requested to be listed on next month's agenda.

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

● **Police Report**

Chief Shawn Murphree presented the Police Report for the month of September 2020.

The department responded to 50 calls for service, 44 tickets were issued, and 3 arrests.

Chief Murphree reported about an on-going investigation with the Sheriff's Department and after a two-month investigation, they were able to shut down individuals just outside of town responsible for thefts in our area. The investigation resulted in three arrests with more arrests expected in the near future. Some of the stolen property was returned. Chief Murphree stated his main focus was on getting the individuals creating the crime traffic out of our area. Due to the efforts of the Ellore Police Department and the

Sheriff's Department, these individuals were shut down along with their crime traffic that was in our area.

Mayor Fanning, Chief Murphree, and Council briefly discussed two incidents that recently happened in Orangeburg County near our town.

Mayor Fanning asked about the staffing of officers in this area of the county. According to Chief Murphree, surrounding agencies are not yet fully staffed. As a whole, the different agencies are short staffed, with at least eleven openings currently. Chief Murphree and our department help other agencies when called upon, and in turn, these agencies help us.

- **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fanning reported that the Community Yard Sales during the weekend of October 3 were very successful.

- **Streets and Parks Report**

Council Member Chip Davis reported that the Streets and Parks Department has been experiencing delays with the debris pickups due to the John Deere tractor being out of service for the past two weeks and is still in the repair shop. He asked for everyone's patience and understanding while the department works to get the debris picked up.

Mayor Fanning asked Council's permission to get a land clearing service to look at the Ulmer property to get an idea of costs associated with clearing the land for a location for unlicensed dumping of the debris (limbs, leaves, clippings only-NO TRASH) collected by the Streets and Parks Department. Orangeburg County will not clear the land unless it is a Category One licensed landfill. The town is not interested in pursuing this type of license.

Council Member Bill Brandenburg replaced the American Flag at Loyns Park with the new flag that was graciously donated to the Town of Elloree by Zunelle Renfroe Bookhardt, in honor of her late husband, John Michael Bookhardt.

- **Clerk/ Treasurer Report**

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

She also presented the Police Fines Report for the month of September 2020. It showed the following totals:

- Total Fines Collected: \$3714.50
- Remitted to State Treasurer: \$2093.40
- Retained in Victims Assistance Fund: \$215.62
- Revenue Retained by Town: \$1405.48 (Placed in Savings)

Ms. Trupiano also reports that the 2018-19 Financials are very close to being completed. Once that Audit is finalized, plans are to begin the 2019-2020 Audit process.

- **Old Business**

None

- **New Business**

Mayor Fanning and Ms. Freda Trupiano attended training for the new LED communication sign last week. The training introduced them to the software and its many options in creating, designing, and displaying electronic messages. Towards the end of the training, however, there was a problem actually connecting remotely to the sign. The issue is expected to be resolved within the week.

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Public Hearing and Final Budget Reading:

A Public Hearing for the 2020-21 Budget took place on October 8, 2020. No changes were recommended at the conclusion of the public hearing.

Council Member Laurence Livingston made a motion to approve the 2020-21 Budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kim Gidron. There were no questions or comments. All were in favor. The 2020-21 Budget passed.

Trick or Treat in town

Mayor Fanning asked the clerk to give a summation of what surrounding towns decided about door to door trick or treating. Holly Hill, Eutawville, and Santee are all discouraging door to door trick or treating this year due to COVID-19. Holly Hill and Santee have cancelled their Halloween activities; however, Eutawville is planning a trunk or treat in town.

Chief Murphree reports that he and other police chiefs in the area discussed this issue at length. On the subject of Drive Thru Trick or Treating, Chief Murphree felt it would be a traffic

nightmare. Mayor Fanning and Chief Murphree both felt that in the interest of safety of the children that door to door trick or treating in Elloree will be discouraged this year. Mayor Fanning encouraged churches to offer festivities for smaller groups.

Christmas Activities:

Mayor Fanning asked Council to consider their thoughts on the Christmas Parade this year. Even though the parade route is spaced out, traditionally, there are areas of the route where spectators congregate. Chief Murphree offered the Department's assistance and will support the decision that Council makes. It was decided to wait until the November Town Council meeting to make a decision. In the next month, The Council will continue to monitor the CO-VID 19 Pandemic situation and the Flu Season.

● Executive Session

None

● Guest Comment

Council Member Kim Gidron recognized a guest in attendance who wished to speak to Council about getting parents and their children more involved in the community. Ms. Carmen Johnson spoke passionately to Council. Being a parent, she shared her thoughts about the challenges she faced while raising her daughter. In light of recent events, she encouraged open conversation between children and police officers when the opportunity presented itself.

The Council encouraged her to list her ideas in the form of a written presentation so they could consider them, adding she would be supported by Town Council.

Mayor Fanning stated he would also like to get her in touch with churches, school professionals, and the Orangeburg County Sheriff Office. He also mentioned guidance counselors at Lake Marion High School.

Mayor Fanning, Council, and Chief Murphree encouraged Ms. Johnson to stay in touch with them and thanked her for being willing to initiate communication between parents, children, and the community agencies /professionals equipped to assist in this initiative.

● Adjournment

Council Member Kim Gidron 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 6:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Freda Trupiano
Town Clerk