

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2013

PRESIDING: MAYOR GLENN MILLER

Mayor Miller called the Council meeting to order and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings. Roll call was taken for Council Members all was present with the exception of Councilman Robert Berry.

Motion was made by Councilman Sam Whisenhunt and seconded by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was approved.

Ms. Lavenia Williams wanted to clarify her decision why she chose not to move the Senior Citizens in the Cafeteria. Ms. Lavenia stated that because of all the negativity and controversy the Senior Citizens rather stay where they were at. However if the cafeteria would become available they would love to have it because it's a much bigger space. Ms. Lavenia also stated that the Senior Citizen Program would only be willing to pay the phone bill and that's it. Mayor Miller said that as of right now the town did not have any funds to help with the Senior Citizen Program but not to give up because he's sure there is funding available throughout the county.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated that the only reason he asked the question about the Senior Citizens utilizing the cafeteria is because he felt like Ms. Lavenia deserved an answer.

Betty Skolosky asked what it took to get the Senior Citizens in the cafeteria. Mayor Miller stated that it is a lot to be done, he said that it was a lot of things that belonged to the rescue squad for burned out victims.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings asked when SCE&G was going to take the Christmas tree down at the Depot. Mayor Miller said that he has asked them several times and no one has come out. However he will continue to call and make sure it comes down soon.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked Officer Johnson what is the law on golf carts and gators.

Officer Johnson said that it should be a license driver for the most part but it was under the officers discretion.

Mayor Miller said that the DMV in St. George told him that the only qualifications were that it needed to be a license driver and could only be driven in a four mile radius from which its registered.

Betty Skolosky stated that she has a golf cart and she knows it has to be registered, driven by a license driver, be insured, and have proof of ownership.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked Officer Johnson What should he say when a resident ask him about the law on driving a golf cart.

* Officer Johnson responded that all golf carts should be registered, insured, and driven by a license driver and only on secondary roads. However there are exceptions for City and County workers as long as they are working.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked if the individuals who tore a house down had a business license.

Mayor Miller said the individuals did not have a business license. They tore the house down and left.

Mayor Miller said a company is selling coal mix for \$1,800.00 and he thinks the town needs to purchase some. Council agreed.

Councilman Chris Ott made a motion to accept the financial report.

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion.

Motion was carried.

Mayor Miller said that last month council wanted lights on Butts Rd. Mayor Miller stated that SCE&G told him that for 6 light poles it would be \$290.00 up front and

\$11.02 a month for each light pole. Mayor Miller also added that SCE&G said that each pole is \$1,600.00 per pole but the town could pay \$16.00 per month.

Mrs. Betty Skolosky asked why the town is putting lights on Butts Rd.

Councilman Chris Ott said that residents live on that road and is complaining about it being so dark and there are a lots of runners and bike riders also.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated that he thinks six light poles are a little excessive, but he felt he should have mentioned getting the lights on Butts Rd. without it being costly to the town.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated that he had some bids for the handrails at the new town hall and wanted to know what the procedure for bids was.

Mayor Miller said that he was a fair person and chose the lowest bid for the job.

Councilwoman Amy Bryant asked when the trailer by the town hall would be moved. Mayor Miller replied that he was still making phone calls concerning that matter but it would get moved soon.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked about when was the fire dept. coming to get the ambulance. Mayor Miller said that the Branchville Rescue Squad owed the Town of Branchville \$5,000 but the Fire Dept. could come get it.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made a motion to sell the Mountaineer Truck and the minimum bid would be \$1,200.00. Motion was seconded and carried. Deadline for bids will be on April 29, 2013.

Councilman Amy Ott discussed the town purchasing a sign for Horton Field. Mayor Miller said we would contact Mr. Black at Branchville High School to see if he can make a sign. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings said that he would call the school as well as get prices for a sign.

Councilman Chris Ott made a motion to approve the first reading on the 2013 budget. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt seconded the motion. Motion carried

Second reading on the 2013 budget will be April 15, 2013 at 6:00pm.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt had information on the Tornado Shelter. He said that the Town of Branchville would be responsible for the up keep of the building after it's built and an extension for the money of the building has already been given. Therefore a decision needed to be made about the shelter.

Mayor Miller said he had very little to say about the building because he refused to get involved in something he knew nothing about.

Councilwoman Amy Ott asked if the town could use the money for anything else besides the tornado shelter. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt replied that the monies would only be approved for the tornado shelter only.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made a motion to deny the money for the tornado shelter and Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion.

Motion carried

Mayor Miller stated that the town hall was complete and the building had passed inspection. He also said that town employees would start moving in next week and 30 days from today would be the ribbon cutting which should be May 9, 2013.

Mayor Miller said next week council and himself would decide what kind of gift they would have at the ribbon cutting.

Councilwoman Amy Bryant made a motion to adjourn and go into executive session. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion.

Motion carried

After the executive session, the council returned to the public session. During the executive session a matter concerning loans for the Town of Branchville from Farmers & Merchants Bank was discussed.

Motion to write a letter to the County of Orangeburg requesting \$152,077.45 to pay off the loan that was secured to finish the work on the Town Hall was made

by Councilman Sam Whisenhunt and seconded by Councilwoman Chris Ott.
Motion Carried

These funds will come from the penny sales tax monies that were appropriated for work on the existing Town Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings abstained from voting due to conflict of interest due to his position with Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Motion to pay interest in the amount of approximately \$14,300.00 out of the General Fund account and to renew the \$375,000,000.00 note for 4 annual payments due 1 year from the date of the note each year thereafter, to be paid back by the penny sales tax monies from Orangeburg County that were appropriated for building a new town hall was made by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs and seconded by Councilman Chris Ott. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings abstained from voting due to conflict of interest due to his position with Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Motion to adjourn was offered by Mayor Pro Tem Jennings and seconded by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Myra Gaskin
Town Clerk