

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 13, 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings requested corrections be made to the April Minutes. Corrections on the last page the amount \$375,000 should have been \$375,000,000. There were also some corrections made on the April council minutes. On the third page Horton Field Sign: Town would purchase the materials and the school would make it. Also on the fourth page it should read Councilman Ott and not Councilwoman Ott.

Mr. Bamberg asked about the town hall. He wanted to know if the town hall was completed and had it been paid for. Mayor Miller stated that the town hall was not paid for. Mr. Bamberg asked if there were any monies from streetscape to help.

Ms. Naomi Mango thanked the Branchville Police Dept. for their help.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings said he talked to Myra about the financials. Figures for the General Fund and Water and Sewer were not right. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated that they were over budget on bank charges and need to balance budget and keep fees down. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked the public if they wanted taxes to go up. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings said charges one month were \$1085.00. He stated that he told Myra she could call the bank everyday to check balances on the accounts. Mayor Miller said he would work with the clerk to correct the problem. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings said figures are not correct, Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked what was done in April to stop overcharges. What can we do for the month of May? Mayor Glenn Miller stated he will sit down with the clerk to figure out what's going on. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings said he would give the clerk bank statements twice a day if she

needed it. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings motioned to not approve the finance report until June and Councilman Sam Whisenhunt second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller said the Town of Branchville has had their annual water report. The quality of water is good but there are seven items that need to be improved and fifteen days to make the corrections, but there is no fine at this time. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked if it was a random audit. Mayor Miller responded that it was an annual audit.

Mayor Miller stated he was checking into finding out if there were any monies left from streetscape. He saw the town attorney and was given a list of items he would like to find to provide for the attorney. Mayor Miller asked council to come over and help find needed paperwork.

Mayor Miller said the town hall was not paid for and the balance still owed is \$375,000.00. still owed. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings thinks penny tax money will pay for the town hall in the fall of 2013. That's when the town should start receiving money. Mayor Miller said that \$150,000.00 was paid off last week using Penny money. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that Mayor Miller was making it sound as if the Town of Branchville will have to raise taxes and that is not true. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would ask the clerk for a detailed report.

Lights for Butts Rd. was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wants a comparison with other prices. Mayor Miller stated that right now council needed to get prices for lights. Mayor Miller asked the public to report any lights out. They can write the poll numbers down and report it to the town hall. Mayor Miller said he will take it to the electric company and they will fix it.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he talked to the school about the Horton Field Sign. The school will make the sign and the town will purchase the materials. However the school may not be able to make the sign this year since school is almost over so we may have to wait until the fall. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would call the school and ask for ideas/designs.

Mayor Miller stated that the railroad tracks at crossing on Main St. and Ott St. were terrible. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would contact the railroad.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt said that streetscape monies could repair drainage problem on property next to the Chinese Restaurant. Mayor Miller Said he would call SCDOT and ask about the drainage. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs said she would take care of contacting SCDOT.

Mayor Miller mentioned that he would like to have a spray park for little children. A Company is selling materials for \$16,400.00 Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked if it would require a attendant. Mayor Miller said the town could get a volunteer. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked about would the town need to get additional insurance coverage. Mayor Miller said he would have to call the insurance agent. Mayor Miller wanted permission to purchase supplies. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs motioned providing we have proper insurance and if everything is lined up to approve spending of the \$16,400.00. No one seconded

Town resident Betty Skolasky asked if council was concerned what a spray park would do to property value of homes near a spray park. The spray park will be located in existing playground near ball field. Questions about park requirements, how much cement would be needed, additional cost to town ect, Mayor Miller would call attorney to discuss. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion to table the spray park until June so that information could be gathered. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt seconded motion.

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs asked to have American Flags placed to celebrate both Memorial Day and Flag Day. Town Resident John Goodwin volunteered to help.

Mayor Miller wants to replace the wood barriers with cement ones on property between Otts Grocery store and grassy area. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made a motion to purchase cement barriers and Mayor Pro Tem second the motion. Motion was carried.

Mayor Glenn Miller sated that there was one bid received for the Mountaineer, however it was after the deadline (May 8) and was not valid. Council decided the starting bid should start at \$850.00. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion and Councilwoman Benita Gibbs second the motion.

Council members asked about move in date for the new town hall. Mayor Miller said that the computers and phones were done today and everything else should be done by Friday. The ribbon cutting will be after offices are open and functioning.

Mayor Miller thanked Councilman Sam Whisenhunt for his help on working on the pump saving the town about \$1000.00.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked about the town spraying for mosquitoes. Mayor pro tem Jennings said that you need to be trained. Mayor Miller said he would find out where the school was. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings mentioned it was through DHEC.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion for meeting to be adjourned, Councilwoman Amy Bryant second the motion.

Respectfully Submitted

Myra Gaskin
Town Clerk