

Town of Branchville
Council Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2013

The regular Town Council Meeting of the Branchville Town was held on Monday July 8, 2013 at 6pm at Town Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Glenn Miller.

Mayor, Council, along with those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

Roll Call for council indicated that all council members were present for the meeting with the exception of Councilman Robert Berry.

Mayor Glenn Miller welcomed the guests.

Minutes: Mayor Glenn Miller asked that the minutes from June meeting be corrected to read "Mayor Miller will have the last and final say so on hiring individuals to work with the town." Mayor Miller said also that he would hire the employees that he had to work with and that there was a town ordinance that was done in 1999 giving the Mayor the right to hire and fire.

Councilman Chris Ott noted that the police discussion held at the June meeting was not included in the minutes. It was discussed that the police discussion at the June meeting had to deal with the budget and the errors on the financial report.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sam Whisenhunt. The motion carried.

Public Comment Agenda Items: None

Public Comments Other Matters: Ms. Naomi Mingo stated she was walking across the railroad tracks behind the Eatery and a police officer in a beige car stopped her. He informed her she was not allowed to cross the railroad tracks. Councilman Tom Jennings asked Ms. Mingo if the cross arms were coming down at the time of her crossing the tracks. Ms. Mingo said they were not, however a train was coming in the distance. Mayor Miller replied that he was not sure as to why she couldn't cross the track but he would discuss the matter with police department and get Ms. Mingo an answer. It was mention that the Town of Branchville does not have a beige colored car therefore it could have been a highway patrolman or sheriff's deputy. Mayor Miller replied that the crossing was still under the jurisdiction of the Branchville Police Department and no other should have been patrolling.

Ms. Sadie reported that a fire hydrant in the Cattle Creek Community appears to be washing away. She stated she spoke with the Mayor a month ago about this matter. Mayor Miller reported he had checked the hydrant and it has concert around it and would not wash away.

Mayor Miller said for cosmetic purposes, he would try to get some dirt put back around the hydrant.

Ms. Joe also reported the water at Zion Church has a bad odor. Mayor Miller stated it has a bad odor because it is time to flush the hydrant. He stated he will flush the hydrant on Tuesday July 9, 2013 as long as it is not raining.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Whisenhunt stated he was happy to see the reconciliation sheets in the council packets. Councilman Whisenhunt reported there was not a waste collection fee for the month of June. Mayor Miller reported that the overpayment for waste collection in February had been researched and there was not an overpayment found.

Councilman Whisenhunt stated that Ira James should be moved to salary and out of professional fees. He also stated that it needs to be corrected from before. Councilman Whisenhunt inquired as to why Mayor Miller's salary was taken out of professional fees as well. It was determined that these were reporting errors and would be corrected.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings stated he spoke with Jenny Elliott and she is looking into the fees from the treasurer in the amount of \$37,165.71. Mayor Miller states that the problem was because the bills were not being paid. Councilman Jennings reported that some of the checks should be Repair and Maintenance not Building and Ground. Councilman Jennings questioned the \$24,000.00 draft from general fund to operation and maintenance and the \$20,000.00 draft from general fund to operation and maintenance not being posted correctly. Jenny Elliott will be working with McGreggor and company on these issues.

Councilman Whisenhunt questioned the outstanding checks and what should be done with them. Mayor Miller stated he had already spoken with Jenny Elliott and they were older checks. It was determined that checks become stale dated after six months. It was agreed that a journal entry be made for these checks to correct some of these outstanding checks.

Councilman Whisenhunt made motion to approve financial reports for June with the noted corrections being made. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business: Mayor Miller reported we are continuing to work on financial reports from May and June. Councilman Whisenhunt stated he would like to have a work session with auditor Lori Salley to help correct the financials. Mayor Miller stated to have a list of questions and he would have Ms. Lori Salley come to help. Mayor Miller will be asking Ms. Salley when will be a convenient time for her to help.

Councilman Whisenhunt stated we should have another work session to help get the old clerk's office cleaned out and secured. Mayor Miller stated the office has a lot of stuff in it and nothing is in order. Mayor Miller stated if he would talk to Jenny and if help was needed he would let Council know.

Councilman Chris Ott asked Council about lights on Butts street. Councilman Whisenhunt stated there are not enough lights on Butts street. Councilman Ott stated he would find out the cost for the lights and report back in August. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs reported that Branchville is next on the list for the paving machine from SCDOT. She stated the crew knew where the problem was and that we were next. Mayor Miller said he would call SCDOT and see if the process can be sped up, because the problem is very bad on the road.

Councilman Whisenhunt stated Jenny Elliott was doing a good a good job and she was getting the training she needed. Mayor Miller stated with the magnitude of work in the Town Office, that it is impossible for one person to do the job. Mayor Miller also stated they should be trained to work in the water department and the police department. Mayor Miller stated they would have 6 months to learn the job and could be let go in 30 days. Mayor Miller reported that an ad was placed in the paper and the deadline for resumes is July 16, 2013.

Councilman Whisenhunt reported that the Town has a NSF fee in place but question the ordinance not being signed. Mayor Miller said that he would call Bill Taylor with the Municipal Association to see if the ordinance is legal and what should be done in this event.

Mayor Miller reported that the Town needs a new maintenance worker. Mayor Miller stated that there are not enough funds to hire someone full time. Mayor Miller explained that recently, the town has suffered some major repairs because of lines being cut by the boring crews in town. With cuts of this magnitude, DHEC requires that a person with a Class C water license assist with the repairs. Mayor Miller would like to check with Jamie Preacher on the possibility of being on an as needed basis for the Town of Branchville. Mr. Preacher has a Class C license and has assisted the Town of Branchville with repairs to water lines. Mayor Miller will report more on this at the August meeting. Councilman Whisenhunt asked about the new maintenance worker. Mayor Miller stated he was temporary and that he would begin college in August. Councilman Whisenhunt inquired as to why this person was hired when the budget has been exhausted for the year. It was determined that the budget should be adjusted with monies moved from salaries to outside labor to accommodate this. Councilman Whisenhunt inquired about Experience Works. Mayor Miller stated they have to be over 55 and live in Branchville.

Councilman Ott inquired about the problem with the Penn Branch not flowing properly. Mayor Miller reported that this is a problem and that with the recent rains that citizens have had flooding issues. County Councilman Harry Whimberly has been contacted to see if anything can be done. Mayor Miller urged everyone present to make calls to representatives; county officials etc and complain that the Town of Branchville needs assistance in getting the ditches and branches flowing for proper drainage.

New Business: Councilman Sam Whisenhunt questioned if any of the repairs to the new Town Hall were being made. Mayor Miller reported the doors had been fixed but that was all that had been done. Mayor Miller stated he would turn it over to someone else because he didn't have time to complete the items on the list. Councilman Whisenhunt stated that the building needed

to be repainted. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to repaint the new building with semi-gloss or gloss in the same color. The second was made by Councilwoman Gibbs. The motion carried.

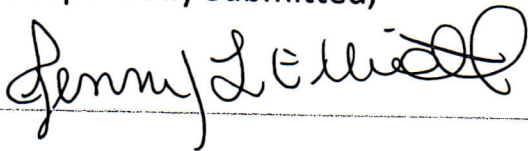
Councilman Whisenhunt stated we should tear down wall to be able to see the clerk. Ms. Beverly Berry reported her grandson went in the new Town Hall to pay her water and did not see anyone. Ms. Berry stated you should be able to see someone when you walk in. Mr. Turner stated we should have security cameras. Mayor Miller stated Sam's Wholesale Club had security cameras for approximately \$1200.00. Councilwoman Gibbs made motion to install security cameras up to \$3000.00. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Jennings made motion to go into excessive section. The second was made by Councilwoman Gibbs. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Gibbs made the motion to have a sealed bid for the 2000 Mountaineer starting at \$500.00. The bids should be in by August 9, 2013 at 5:00pm. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs and seconded by Councilman Chris Ott. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk