

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2013

The regular Town Council Meeting was held on Monday August 12, 2013 at 6pm at the Town Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Glenn Miller.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call indicated that all council members were present with the exception of Councilwoman Gibbs. Mayor Miller reported that Councilman Robert Berry had resigned.

Mayor Glenn Miller welcomed the guests.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Chris Ott. The second was made by Councilwoman Amy Bryant. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Ms. Luvenia Williams questioned if the Town of Branchville would have a library. She stated the children are going back to school and a library is needed. Mayor Miller stated we have a building we can use. Mayor Miller stated even if you have a building you have to have approval to have a library. Mayor Miller said he would have more information about a library at the next meeting.

Ms. Luvenia Williams stated she heard the Town of Branchville has land. Mayor Miller said we do have land. Ms. Williams said the public should know about the land so we could have new development in Branchville. She asked council what they thought. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt said he thought it would be good for Branchville to have new development. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings reported the town has 2 pieces that are advertized now. Mayor Miller stated the town people should call the Chamber of Commerce so we can get help.

Ms. Luvenia Williams asked if it was possible to have a sidewalk going to the school. Mayor Miller said the people with children should come forward so we can try and get money. Ms. Williams also reported the park on Evans Street needs to be cut. Mayor Miller stated he agreed but with the rain and only one maintenance worker it was hard.

Ms. Marianna Street asked what was being done about the mosquito problem Branchville has. Mayor Miller stated he would like to report on that later in the meeting. Ms. Street also inquired as to when we would have a spray park. Mayor Miller reported they are supposed to come tomorrow August 13, 2013 to work on the spray park.

Ms. Naomi Mingo thanked Mayor Miller for looking into her situation regarding crossing the railroad tracks.

Mr. Charlie Byrd asked if County Councilman Harry Wimberly should be contacted regarding the Library. Mayor Miller stated that Councilman Wimberly had been contacted and had agreed to help; however, a building must be secured and approved by the Library Board first.

Ms. Trina Herndon questioned if there was going to be a restroom at the spray park. Mayor Miller stated that restrooms are already there. Ms. Herndon reported they are locked. Mayor Miller said this is something that should be handled now, not wait until we have a spray park. Mayor Pro Tem said it was originally stated that a key should be kept at the Town Hall.

Ms. Harriet Hughes reported there is a problem with speeding on Ott Street. She stated she has call Asst Chief Eddie Hewitt and she feels he has done what he can. She reported she saw a speeding truck almost hit an elderly couples' vehicle that was leaving the Baptist Church. She stated the cars come by so fast you can barely see the color of the vehicle.

Ms. Harriet Hughes reports the ditch beside her house floods and the only way to access her house is to wear boots. Ms. Hughes showed the Mayor and Council pictures of her yard flooded. She stated it had been going on for about five months and she had already spoken with the Mayor about this problem. She questioned what had he done. Mayor Miller reported he was trying to break through but he stopped when he realized if he had broken through she would had more water in her yard. Mayor Miller stated he spoke with county Councilman Harry Wimberly and Councilman Wimberly reported the Town is has these problems because of the branches. Mayor Miller stated the water has nowhere to go. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if legally the Town was able to help with the ditch. Ms. Hughes stated the Mayor told her would help, so she did not contact anyone else for help. Mayor Miller said he thought he would have been able to help but he was wrong.

Ms. Harriet Hughes stated when Mayor Miller first came to her house on July 13 he stated he need help. She questioned if he had hired anyone one. Mayor Miller said the Town did not have the funds to hire someone but he would hire someone soon.

Mayor Miller stated communities with crime watch have less crime. Ms. Hughes asked if a stop sign could be put up. Councilman Whisenhunt said to go to DOT website and they would come out and evaluate if one is needed. Mayor Miller stated at the next meeting he would have more information on a four way stop sign.

Ms. Pamela Jones stated she had the same issue as Ms. Hughes. She has water coming in her yard and under her house. Mayor Miller said he would try to get help.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Whisenhunt said the financials have improved. He reported that transfers out of General Fund are over budget for the year to date. Councilman Whisenhunt stated that the police salary is \$10,000.00 over budget. Mayor Miller reported that at one time Branchville had 7 officers now we only have 3. Mayor Miller stated if we take one

officer off people will notice. Mayor Miller said he did not want to mess with the police department. Mayor Miller reported we would find the funds. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial report. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Miller stated the auditor, Ms. Lori Salley, has been busy and he was not sure when she would be able to help. Mayor Pro Tem asked if she would be able to come after she has finished the 2012 audit. Mayor Miller stated he felt she would. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if things were getting better. Mayor Miller stated it was. He reported papers are being filed now.

Councilman Chris Ott reported he had been out of town and was unable to find out about the lights on Butt Street. He said he would have information at the next meeting.

Mayor Miller reported he spoke with Bill Taylor and the NSF fee had been voted on and passed.

Mayor Miller presented council with 3 bids to repaint the interior of the new Town Hall.

Right Way Painters, Roger Williams:	\$6880.00
Quality Precise, Matt Elliott:	\$6400.00
Dana Trafton:	\$35,249.98

Councilwoman Amy Bryant made the motion have Right Way Painters repaint the new Town Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller stated that when the Town Hall is painted he will have the security cameras installed. He said this will be done by next month.

The town received 2 bids for the Mercury Mountaineer. The bids were opened during the council meeting.

Nathaniel Miller:	\$625.00
Robert Myers:	\$701.01

The Mountaineer will be sold to Robert Myers.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Charles Dukes said his new employer has him over the safety program and they need lockers. He asked if Council would give him a price on 10 lockers. Council agreed that if 10 lockers could be found Mr. Dukes could have them. Mayor Miller stated he would call Mr. Dukes tomorrow.

PROGRESS REPORTS: Mayor Miller reported he is working on the security cameras and painting the Town Hall.

Mayor Miller reported he had spoken with three different people about the problem with mosquitoes. The first company was Gregory. They would spray for \$3150.00. They would spray twice in August, once in September, once in October, and once in November. The seconded company was Stones. They would spray for \$50 hr with a minimum of three hours. They would use our machine and our chemicals. The third is Orangeburg County. They would use our machine and keep during the summer months. They would spray twice a month at no charge. Councilman Whisenhunt made motion to use the county. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Miller stated he would call in the morning.

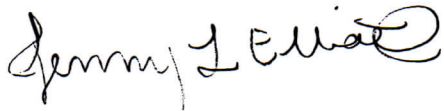
Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to go into excessive session. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Motion to return to public session was made by Mayor Pro-Tem, Tom Jennings and the second was made by Councilwoman Bryant.

Mayor Miller informed those present that no vote was required by the discussions in the executive session.

Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jennings. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Elliott".

Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk