

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2013

The regular Town of Branchville Council meeting was held on October 14, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Glenn Miller. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

Roll Call indicated that all council members were present.

Mayor Miller welcomed the guests.

Minutes: Mayor Miller wanted a correction made in September's minutes that Mr. Lee Hendren was not the clerk of court. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated it should be noted in September's minutes that the lease with D&R Music Academy is a one-year lease. Councilman Whisenhunt stated that it should be noted in September's minutes that there is already an ordinance in place for town cleanup. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve September's minutes with the corrections being made. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Ms. Shirley Crosby stated she and her neighbors would like town water on Hunting Road. Ms. Crosby stated she and her neighbors had signed a petition. Mayor Miller stated it is less than a mile from Cattle Creek, where the Town already has water. Mayor Miller stated he had a quote from Metts Engineering. The quote was for \$7,992.22. Councilman Whisenhunt asked what should be considered and if the Town had money set aside. Mayor Miller said we have the money with the penny tax. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to have water lines installed on Hunting Road. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Betty Wilson said she has been working the elections for Orangeburg County and for the Town of Branchville. She reported that the citizens on the north side of the railroad tracks will vote at the high school and the citizens on the south side of the railroad tracks will vote at the community center.

Councilman Whisenhunt reported that City Electric did a good job, helping out during Raylrode Daze. Mayor Miller thanked Councilman Whisenhunt for helping out with the water and sewer department.

Financial Report: Councilman Whisenhunt questioned why the General Fund was low. Mayor Miller said the town was still paying bills from last year. Councilman Whisenhunt said this had been a good year for the Town. He reported the Town brought in \$100,000.00 over budget. Mayor Miller stated that damage caused during the broadband installation cost the Town over \$8,000.00. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if the Town was going to file an insurance claim. Mayor Miller reported that an insurance claim will be filed. Councilwoman Amy Bryant made the motion to approve the financial report. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business: Mayor Miller reported that he met with the Orangeburg County Library Director, Anna Zacherl, last Thursday to look at the old fire station as a possible site for a branch library. She said the location is ideal but recommended building a 400-square-foot addition for a children's area. Mayor Miller said she did not say yay or nay on approving the building. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if there was a list of requirements for a new library. Mayor Miller stated that we do not have a list but he will

meet with Ms. Zacherl again and ask for one. Mayor Miller said we will look more at a library first of the year.

Councilman Chris Ott reported that the installation for the lights on Buttes Road would cost the town \$973.00. Councilman Whisenhunt said the cost for installation did not include the cost of tree trimming. Mayor Miller said at this time money is tight. Councilman Whisenhunt said that the lights on Buttes Road have been under discussion for six months but with the town finances it should be tabled until the first of the year. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to table the lights on Buttes Road until the first of next year. Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported he was still waiting to hear from Lamont with SCDOT about a four-way stop sign on Ott Street.

New Business: Ms. Lori Williams was on the agenda but she did not attend the council meeting.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt stated we need to have work session to work on a budget for 2014. After some discussion it was decided that we would have work sessions for the 2014 budget on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 pm beginning on Monday October 21, 2013.

Mayor Miller said we have a backhoe in good condition that has been parked for a year. He would like to have a sealed bid auction to sell the backhoe. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to sell the backhoe using NADA Book value as the minimal bid. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported he has two groups inquiring about renting the old high school cafeteria. One of the groups said they would take it as is. They are presently renting the Community Center on Sundays for \$300.00 a month. Councilman Whisenhunt said we should wait and see what work needs to be done to the cafeteria.

Mayor Miller said he would like to have an open air market in Branchville. He met with Dr. Linda Payne from OC Tech; she explained how to set up an open air market. Mayor Miller would like to use the freight depot. Mayor Miller stated he would like to pull up the floor and put down plywood. Mayor Miller said someone might be willing to donate the plywood. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to authorize the Town of Branchville to seek any resources it can find to improve the depot. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Amy Bryant. The motion carried.

Progress Report/ Capital Improvements: Mayor Miller stated there are only one or two more things to be done before the Town Hall will be ready for a ribbon cutting. Mayor Miller stated by the end of the month the Town Hall should be ready for a ribbon cutting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings asked if the penny tax could be used for different things and how much was left. Mayor Miller stated there was only a small amount left and we could only spend it on what it was intended for.

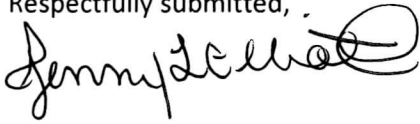
Councilman Sam Whisenhunt asked if the water park was completed. Mayor Miller reported it was. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings asked if the playground was closed. Mayor Miller said the playground is closed. Mayor Miller said a safety inspector advised him that some of the playground equipment was not safe.

Motion to move to meeting into executive session was made by Councilwoman Bryant. The second was made by Councilman Whisenhunt. The motion carried.

After council returned Mayor Miller said there was nothing to vote on.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Amy Bryant. The second was made by Councilwoman Benita Gibbs. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jenny Elliott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk