

Town of Branchville
Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2013

The regular Town Council Meeting of the Town Of Branchville was held on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 6 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gregory Oliver was sworn in as a council member by Mayor Miller.

Roll call indicated that all council members were present with the exception of Councilman Chris Ott and Councilwoman Benita Gibbs.

Mayor Miller welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Miller said that the Hunting Road project would cost \$79,920.72 and under the public comments the word Mayor was misspelled. He reported the man that came down from GameTime was a salesman not an inspector and that the playground was not closed for unsafe conditions. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections being made. The second was made by Councilwoman Amy Bryant. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Ms. Shirley Crosby thanked the Mayor and Council for help in approving their water on Hunting Road and wanted to know when the water would be available.

Mr. Michael Blankenship wanted to speak on the need for a four way stop sign on Ott Street. Mayor Miller said he was still waiting on SCDOT to get back with him concerning the four way stop sign. Mayor Miller said he has requested they do a study on Ott Street to see if a four way stop sign is needed but one has not yet been conducted.

Mr. Blankenship also said there were four trash cans at Horton Field and they are no longer there. Mayor Miller said he picked up the trash cans. Mayor Miller said he and the clerk did a survey on the trash cans and there are cans out not being paid for and Horton Field had four. Councilwoman Bryant said that is the town's land and we need to help keep it clean. She questioned if there was a bigger trash can we could have for Horton Field. Mayor Miller said there is but it comes at a cost. Mr. Blankenship questioned if the Community Center has a trash can. Mayor Miller said they do but it comes out of the Community Center Fund. Councilman Whisenhunt asked Mr. Blankenship if he needed the trash cans all year long. Mr. Blankenship said he would need them during season which is August 1- Mid November and Mid January- July. Mayor Miller said if council would give them a trash can he would rather leave it there all year. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to leave four trash cans at Horton Field. The second was made by Councilwoman Bryant. The motion carried.

Ms. Marianna Street wanted to know why the playground was closed and for how long. Mayor Miller said it was closed because of a gate that was hanging dangerously and it was still closed because he forgot to take down the sign. He said he would take down the sign tomorrow. Councilman Whisenhunt said he was a little concerned with how close the big slide is to the concrete pad. Mayor Miller said he

asked the salesman about that but the salesman said it was not a problem. Mayor Miller said we can move the slide if council wants. Mayor Miller said if we move the slide it needs to face north. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to move the big slide. The second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings. The motion carried. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would not open the playground back up until the slide has been move. Mayor Miller said the playground would not be open tomorrow.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Whisenhunt questioned why Municipal Court was over budget in salaries. It was decided that it was over budget due to overtime, Eddie Hewitt's vacation time being paid out and a three pay periods. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings questioned why the police fines expense was over budget. The Town Clerk said it was paying two months of fines, one was from April that had not been paid. Mayor Pro Tem asked if we could get the money back on Till's installing the spray park and the sound equipment from Mark's Music. Mayor Miller said we could. Councilman Whisenhunt said that they should both go under Capital Expenditures. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial report. The second was made by Councilman Oliver. The motion carried.

Old Business: Mayor Miller said that Mr. and Ms. Green came by to look at the old high school cafeteria. Mayor Miller said there have been a lot of things taken out and it has no heat and no air conditioning but they still want to rent it. Mayor Miller said they understand the town does not have money to help with repairs. Mayor Miller asked Councilman Whisenhunt to look at the electrical wires before anyone goes in the cafeteria. Councilman Whisenhunt said before they use it there should be a lease agreement. Mayor Miller said there would be a lease agreement before they used it. Mayor Miller said he would like for them to be able to begin cleaning. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion that they proceed with the cleaning. The second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jennings. The motion carried.

Councilman Whisenhunt said he went to the old high school and there was a lot of stuff there that needs to be cleaned up. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to have the Salvation Army come in and get the stuff. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Jennings. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported that he and Mr. Gradie Lincoln are attending a training seminar tomorrow (November 12, 2013) for the open air market. He said there needs to be a committee for the open air market. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to get a committee together for the open air market to report to council with Mr. Gradie Lincoln as the Chairman. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller said he is still waiting to hear from Lamont with SCDOT about the four way stop sign on Ott Street. Mayor Miller said he would call Lamont again.

New Business: Mr. Chris Brunson said he came to council for a reduction in his water bill. Mr. Brunson said his bill states he used 49,000 gallons of water. He said he does not have a leak. Mayor Miller said from now on he will not make adjustments on water bills. Mayor Miller said if you want an adjustment you will have to fill out an adjustment form and bring it before council. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would like to check out their meter. Mayor Miller asked how we should handle when someone complains about their water. Councilman Whisenhunt said case by case. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would check Mr. Brunson's water this week. Mayor Miller asked who would be willing to call other towns to see how they handle situations like this. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if Mr. Lee Hendren could call the Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities. Mr. Hendren agreed.

Mayor Miller said our accountant Ms. Lori Salley said we need to renew the lease for the Eatery at the Depot. The rent is now \$600.00 a month. Councilwoman Bryant said we should leave the rent the same. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to renew the Eatery's lease for \$600.00 a month for one year. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller said the rent for the Community Center is too high. Mayor Miller would like for the rent to be moved from \$75 to \$50 with a \$100 deposit. Mayor Miller said that a town employee is to check the Community Center before the renters are given back their deposit. He said \$150 should be paid before the day is held for them. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion for the rent at the Community Center to be \$50. The second was made by Councilman Whisenhunt. The motion carried.

Mr. Lee Hendren said he would like for Branchville to begin to use online bill payment. The town would be able to take traffic tickets and water bills online. Mr. Hendren said the town would get the full amount owed to the town, as the customer pays the service charge. He said that it should be of no cost to the town. Mr. Hendren said that sc.gov would give us a website for free. He said the website could be up and running in as little as six weeks. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if the third party would be responsible for security. Mr. Hendren said yes. Mr. Hendren said the website is built by us with the supervision of sc.gov and there is no new equipment needed. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to proceed with the town website/ online bill payment provided we can get good documentation for insurance for people who use this site. The second was made by Councilwoman Bryant. The motion carried. Mayor Miller said he would have the town's attorney look at the website/online bill payment.

Mayor Miller said Councilwoman Bryant should have recused herself from the discussion and the voting of the Eatery's lease. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would second the motion for the Eatery's lease.

Capital Improvements: Councilman Whisenhunt asked when the work would begin on Hunting Road. Mayor Miller said he feels they should begin the work before the end of the year.

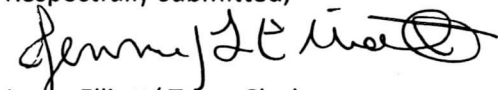
Item for Information: Mayor Miller said DHEC sent a notice that all maintenance workers must take training for asbestos if there is a utility line that contains it. He said the town has one line that does. He states we must send Mr. Keyon Williams and Mr. Nelson Goldsmith for the training. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to send Mr. Williams and Mr. Goldsmith for the training. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session: Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller said that there was nothing to vote on from executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to adjourn. The second was made by Councilwoman Bryant. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny Elliott/ Town Clerk