

**TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2014**

The regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Branchville was held on January 13, 2014 at 6pm. The meeting was call to order by Mayor Glenn Miller.

Mayor Glenn Miller swore in Councilman Michael Blankenship, Councilwoman Amy Bryant and Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Jennings.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call indicated that all council members were present.

Mayor Glenn Miller welcomed the guests.

Minutes: Councilman Sam Whisenhunt questioned where the special meetings minutes were. Mayor Miller said he would have them typed up tomorrow and have them sent out. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the December 9, 2013 Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Mr. Charles Bamberg questioned why the playground was still closed and when it would be opened. Councilman Whisenhunt said it was closed until the big sliding board was moved. Mayor Miller said he would like council to revisit this. He said we had an inspector come down and he didn't have a problem with it. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Jennings said council voted on moving the slide because they felt it was better for the Town. Ms. Lauveina Williams questioned who was qualified to say it was not safe. Mr. Clifton Ott asked if the other playground was still open. Mayor Miller said yes it was still open. Mr. Ott said that was another option. Councilman Michael Blankenship said to move the slide back 20 feet. Mayor Miller said it would be moved.

Ms. Betty Glover thanked the Mayor and Council for the Christmas lights going up. Ms. Glover asked if the Town was going to help her with street lights on her road. Mayor Miller said he did see that her area was dark. Councilman Ott is to have SCE&G look into her area when they are down for Buttes RD.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Chris Ott questioned why the Mayor received a check for travel to Blythewood. Council Ott said that travel was already figured in the Mayor's pay. Councilman Ott said that that pay is supposed to be \$260.00 per month and \$400.00 for travel. Mayor Miller said he and the Town's Clerk, Jenny Elliott would look in to it.

Councilman Sam Whisenhunt questioned where the \$50,000.00 loan was in the financial report. Jenny Elliott said it was put in General Fund and she would ask Renae from McGregor where it would show on the financial report.

Mayor Miller said on the financial report it showed he paid \$62.00 that was for his guest to the Town's Christmas Party and for the tip.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial report for December 2013 with the correction showing where \$50,000.00 was deposited. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business: Mayor Miller asked if everyone looked over the lease agreement for the high school cafeteria. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the lease for the high school cafeteria. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller said he still does not have any news for the four way stop sign on Ott St. Mayor Miller asked Councilman Blankenship if he would take over the four way stop sign on Ott St. Councilman Blankenship said he check on the four way stop on Ott St.

Mayor Miller said he has read over the papers for the online bill payment and he has sent them to the Town's attorney. Once the attorney reads over them and gives his approval we can move forward with the online bill payments.

Mayor Miller said he would like to use auctioneer, Joe Burns, to sell the backhoe for \$15,000.00. Councilman Whisenhunt questioned what the auctioneer recommend the backhoe be sold for. Mayor Miller said just leave it at \$15,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if that was NADA value. Mayor Miller said yes.

Mayor Miller said he is still working on the Farmer's Market. He said he has it signed up for the SNAP program. Mayor Miller said last Friday he received a letter from Hugh Weathers that certified Branchville as a Farmer's Market location. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if Hugh Weathers approved the location. Mayor Miller said Ms. Brice approved the location not Hugh Weathers. Councilman Blankenship asked how much work needed to be done. Mayor Miller said not a lot the floor needed to be redone and he has already secured the materials for the floor. Councilman Blankenship asked how much it would cost to redo the floor. Mayor Miller said the most cost would be to put in a breaker for lights. Councilman Blankenship asked if there would be a fee for the farmers. Mayor Miller said yes. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if Mr. Gradie Lincoln was still going to be the Chairman. Mayor Miller said yes but he is going to need help.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he had questions about the Council Action 2013. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wanted to know what the status of the sign for the front of Town Hall from the February 11th meeting. Mayor Miller said there was no money for the sign. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wanted to know the update on the security cameras for the Town Hall. Mayor Miller

said it was out of mind. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wanted to know the status of a fire evacuation route from December 16th meeting. Mayor Miller said he did not think we needed a fire evacuation route. Ms. Overstreet said that for the safety of the employee OSHA requires one. Mayor Miller said he would find out the facts about the fire evacuation route tomorrow. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wanted to know if the mosquito sprayer was still on loan or if it was back in Branchville. Mayor Miller said it was back in Branchville. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings wanted to know if we were going to let Orangeburg County use our mosquito sprayer and spray Branchville again. Mayor Miller said hopefully.

Councilman Whisenhunt said Mr. Lee Hendren did a great job on the Council Action report. He said this should be an annual report.

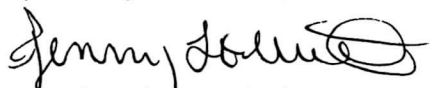
Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said council had discussed having a meeting with each department first of the year and this was something that needed to be done. Mayor Miller said he deals with the employees on a daily and the employees are not afraid to talk with him. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the meeting is so council will know what goes on in each department. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that the Mayor originally said it was a good idea in case something should happen. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said all council wanted to do was learn what each department does. Mayor Miller said that he would let council decide when they would have the meetings. Mayor Miller said it would be better if he was not there. Councilman Blankenship said as a new Councilmember he would like to learn more about the running of the Town and who does what. Mayor Miller said to learn about the running of the Town you should attend seminars.

Councilman Whisenhunt said Mr. Lee Hendren should not use the title of Administrator's Assistant. Mr. Hendren said he was using the title he was given when he was hired. Mayor Miller said he told him that when he was hired. Mr. Hendren asked what he should use. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Clerk of Court. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he was just trying to help in case someone from the state came down. Mayor Miller said they would come to him not council. Mayor Miller said he could handle his self and did not need help. Mr. Hendren said at one time he was told he was not Clerk of Court. He just wanted to make sure that is the title he should use.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if the Town had received the money that had been sent in for. Mayor Miller said it came in today and he would pay the \$50,000.00 loan tomorrow.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny Elliott/Town Clerk