

Town of Branchville  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2015

The regular council meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on July 13, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. A notice was placed on the door of the Town Hall with the time, date, and place of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings at 6:00pm. Mayor, Council along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Roll call indicated that Councilman Sam Whisenhunt and Councilman Chris Ott were absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilwoman Amy Bryant made the motion to approve June 15, 2015 minutes. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Michael Blankenship made the motion to approve June 29, 2015 and June 8, 2015 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Reports:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said there was a question as to why the Town was charged \$9.11 per gal on the credit card statement. The Town Clerk, Jenny Elliott said she had spoken with the gas company and they owe the town a refund of \$108.85. Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to approve the financial reports with the noted changes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to adjourn for executive session for a personnel matter. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:06pm. Councilman Oliver made the motion to return to regular session. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting return to open session at 6:30pm. Councilman Chris Ott was in attendance when council return from executive session.

**Eddie Judy:** Councilman Oliver said the Town would pay the balance due to Eddie Judy and they would call him if needed in the future.

**Lights on Buttes St:** Councilman Ott said he wanted to follow up on the lights on Buttes St. Councilman Oliver said he had three quotes but the prices are high. Councilman Oliver said one way is to pay for the lights over a 15 year period from SCE&G. He said these would be LED lights. Councilman Oliver said Buttes St needs six lights.

**Farmers Market Sign:** Councilman Oliver said for the sign company to begin working on the design for the sign they will need 50% of the cost of the sign up front. He said one sign is less than \$650, the sign is 3x5, made from poly resin and will last ten years. He said the other sign is \$100 less, the sign is 3x5 and made from plastic. Councilman Oliver said he likes the sign from Sign-O-Rama because it is plastic and easy to wash but he doesn't know how durable it will be. Councilman Oliver made the motion to table the Farmers Market sign until next month and have information on the price, size, and durability. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Projector:** Councilwoman Amy Bryant said she had some prices for a projector but she would like to continue to look for one. She said she would like to find a projector that could be used for movie night and could be used in the Council Chambers. Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to continue to investigate projectors for movie night. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Community Center:** Councilman Oliver said Servpro would clean the wall in the kitchen and reseal the floor for \$700. He said he has tried to get a quote to have the ceiling blow but had not received a quote yet. Councilman Oliver said he would have more information for the community center at the next meeting.

**Chain Link Fence:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said at last month's meeting they discussed selling the chain link fence that is behind the Town Hall but needed more information. Councilman Oliver said he would like to table the chain link fence until next month and he would have more information.

**Town Hall:** Mayor Miller said he would like to renew the town's ad with the Tri County Chamber for \$595. Councilwoman Bryant said she would like to update the Ad. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to renew the Tri County Chamber ad for \$595. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. Mayor Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilwoman Bryant and Councilman Oliver voted yay. Councilman Ott and Councilman Blankenship voted nay. The motion carried.

**BYS:** Councilman Blankenship said the land for the new rec complex has been purchased and DHEC permits have passed. He said County Councilman from District 3, the Mayor of Branchville and the BYS board will be oversee the rec complex. He said they are still in the planning stage and may have 3 or 4 baseball fields, a football field and a gym. Councilman Blankenship said there will be a meeting Thursday night at the Town Hall at 7:00pm.

Councilwoman Bryant said a citizen told her the property behind the Methodist Church needs to be cleaned. She asked if someone could send the property owner a letter. Mayor Miller said someone needs to call Orangeburg County. It was decided that the Town Clerk would call Orangeburg County.

**Loan Payment:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the Town has a loan with Farmers and Merchants Bank. He said the loan is not due until November but it was voted on that when the truck and trailer were sold that the proceeds would go toward the loan payment. He said the truck and trailer has been sold. Councilman Blankenship made the motion for the proceeds from the truck and trailer, \$42,950.00, to be applied to the note at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings did not vote due to his affiliation with the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

**Knox Box:** Councilman Oliver said the Branchville Fire Department now has a Knox Box System. He said with the Knox Box the Fire Department is able to hold on to your key and incase on an emergency the Fire Department will not have to break down your door they will be able to use your key. He said each person has a special code to the Knox Box so they know who gets the key from the box and when.

**Fire Department:** Councilman Oliver said the Branchville Fire Department is raffling off a cooler and the tickets are \$1.

**Town Ordinance:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that Cox's Wood Preserve is looking to expand the type of equipment they use; in order for them to expand the equipment the Town will need to adopt a new

ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to have first reading in name only. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Charlie Byrd said Ms. Manning at Branchville High School may help with the signs for the Farmers Market.

Harriett Hughes said she would suggest using a hanging sign that can be easily take down for weather or season.

Harriett Hughes said the Healthplex needs the parking lot lines painted.

Frank Dickson said for future project the Town could use OCtech or Job Corp in Bamberg. He said they are always looking for projects for the students.

Matthew Henderson asked if the meeting for BYS on Thursday was going to be an open or closed meeting. Councilman Blankenship said he would find out and let Town Hall know. Matthew Henderson asked how the board was elected. Councilman Blankenship said it is advertised and then voted on.

Beverly Berry asked if the BYS meeting were open or closed. Councilman Blankenship said in the past BYS meeting were open but the meeting were called as needed. Councilman Blankenship the meeting will continue to be open but BYS should have a regular schedule for meeting.

Frank Dickson asked if BYS had a set of By-Laws. Councilman Blankenship said they did.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the shed for the playground had been ordered but the grill had not been order yet. Chief Randy Clark said he would pick up the grill.

Councilman Oliver said he sent a letter to the County Administer asking if they would check the building for a Library.

Councilman Blankenship made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Elliott  
Town Clerk