

Town of Branchville
Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2015

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on December 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm 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 Jennings. Mayor, Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

Roll call indicated that all Councilmembers were present.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Chris Ott made the motion to approve the November 9, 2015 and November 23, 2015 minutes. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded. The motion the motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports: Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial reports. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried

Ryan Collins: Ryan Collins said he is starting an Air Soft Team to help veterans with PTSD and would like permission to use the old elementary school for training. He said they would shot plastic BBs that would not cause any damage and everyone participating would sign a waiver releasing the Town from any responsibility. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked what he would need inside the school. Ryan Collins said nothing. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked about electricity. Ryan Collins said they would not need electricity. Councilman Whisenhunt asked how often they would use the school. Ryan Collins said once or twice a month. He said the team would clean the inside of the school if they were able to use it. Councilwoman Amy Bryant asked who could participate. Ryan Collins said anyone over 18 is able to participate. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if they had insurance. Ryan Collins said they had waivers. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said to get the Town a copy of the waiver and we will take it to the Town's Attorney to have him look over it.

Insurance: Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the insurance minus the F150 truck. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Past Due Debts: Mayor Miller said he would like Council to tell the Citizens how we are going pay back the past due debts. He said he wants everyone to know that this is how much money was missing when he took office. Councilman Michael Blankenship said they had been instructed by the attorney to not do anything with \$123,959 until the investigation is complete. Mayor Miller said the ones working during that time were bonded. He asked why they can't get the money from the bonding agency. Councilman Whisenhunt asked Mayor Miller if he realized that \$52,000 of that money had been moved by Mayor Miller. He said it was taken out of the School Reserve Fund and put into the General Fund. Mayor Miller said that money yes but it don't matter we need to collect this money for the Town. Mayor Miller said the Town can not afford to pay back this money. Councilman Blankenship said the investigation is not complete and they were instructed to not do anything until it is complete. Councilman Blankenship said the Town can not collect from the bonding company until they know who took it and where it went.

Council Pay Ordinance Amendment: Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of the Council Pay Ordinance Amendment. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Christmas Bonus: Councilman Ott said last year the employees were given \$100 for Christmas Bonus. He said this year he would like to do better. Councilman Ott made the motion to give full time employees \$150 gross pay for Christmas Bonus and to give the part time employees \$50 gross pay. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2016 Council Meeting Schedule: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to approve the 2016 Council meeting schedule with the regular schedule meeting being on the seconded Monday of each month. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Items for Information: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said each Councilmember has a preliminary draft for the 2014 audit. He said she will attend the January 11, 2016 meeting and she will answer any question regarding the audit at that time.

Councilman Oliver said the county requires each house to have an address number on your house. He said the fire department is selling them for \$20.

Councilman Blankenship said DHEC has finally approved the landing clearing for the new sports complex.

Councilwoman Bryant said that movie night had been canceled due to weather. She said it will be rescheduled in spring.

Executive Session: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to go into executive session. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Oliver made the motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said they discussed a personnel matter in executive session that did not require a vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a decorative flourish at the end.

Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk