

Town of Branchville
Council Budget Meeting
November 23, 2015

The Council Budget Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on November 23, 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. Mayor, Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

Approval of October Financial Reports: Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the October Financial Reports. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Council Pay Ordinance Amendment: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that at the last meeting the first reading was given in, name only, to an amendment to the Council salary ordinance authorizing some excused absences. Mayor Pro Jennings said for council to have the 2nd reading they would need the proposed ordinance in hand, because they did not have it the 2nd reading would have to wait until the Dec 14th meeting. Councilman Whisenhunt said there is not a State Law for Council pay ordinance it is up to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to allow 3 absence for the Mayor and each Councilmember for regular scheduled meetings per year. Councilman Michael Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Christmas Party: Councilman Chris Ott said he had two bids for the Christmas Party one from Main Street Bar B Que for \$16.00 per person plus tax and 20% gratuity and the other from Eatery at the Depot for \$14.00 per person plus tax and gratuity. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to have the Christmas Party at the Eatery at the Depot for \$14.00 per person plus tax and gratuity. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilwoman Amy Bryant and Councilman Chris Ott did not vote.

Garbage Contract Collection: Councilman Blankenship said he spoke with Waste Haulers and the quote they are giving would save the Town money. He said Councilman Whisenhunt had also sent out letters for quotes for garbage collection. Councilman Blankenship said a letter needs to be sent to our current garbage collector so the contract would not roll over.

Street Lights on Buttes St: Councilman Oliver said he had requested that SCE&G give him a proposal for Buttes St. He said he is hopeful that he would have the proposal for the December meeting.

Loan/Playground Equipment: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he wanted it in the minutes that he was only presenting the information. He said last year the Council took out a note for \$60,000 that was due on November 18th. He said that money had been applied to the loan and the payoff is \$12,762.49. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he was informed that we do not have the money for the playground equipment. Councilman Gregory Oliver made the motion to renew the loan for \$40,000 with the understanding that we will only access what is needed. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings did not vote.

Business License: Lee Hendren said he could find minutes from 2008 that Council voted to approve a new business license ordinance but he cannot find the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked that the clerks review the business license ordinances that we do have and bring questions to the December meeting.

Timber: Councilman Michael Blankenship said he spoke with Eddie Lee from Caw Caw Land and Timber and as of last week it was still too wet to cut the timber. Councilman Blankenship said in Caw Caw contract he has a weather clause for up to 6 months. He said it looks like it will be after first of the year before Caw Caw will be able to cut the timber.

Budget: Councilman Blankenship said a police car will need to be replaced by the end of next year. It was decided that an account would be opened in January 2016 and \$385.19 would be drafted into the account each month for a police car fund.

Councilman Blankenship asked if he wanted to order uniforms for the police department did he need to take it before Council. It was decided that as long as it is in the budget the supervisor can order them, if it goes over the budget then it must be approved by council.

Councilman Chris Ott made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of the budget. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Items for Information: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the town received a letter stating that each town would need to have their own Public Defender. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would call the Town's Municipal Judge, Frank Quattlebaum, for more information.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said each councilmember had received an insurance packet and he would like everyone to review it and it would be discussed at the December meeting. Councilman Oliver said he would like to take the 1999 truck off the insurance because it is no longer running. Councilman Blankenship asked if the 1999 truck is needed. Councilman Whisenhunt said since they are using the 2008 truck it is not. Councilman Blankenship said he would like to have it repaired. It was discussed that it would cost too much to fix it. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to sell the 1999 Ford truck as is. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Williams and Williams sent a bill for \$120.00 in unbilled legal fees. Councilman Ott made the motion to pay Williams and Williams \$120.00 for the unbilled legal fees. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he spoke with the Town's Municipal Judge, Frank Quattlebaum, and he said he would install the incoming Mayor and Councilmembers for no fee. Councilman Ott made the motion to have Frank Quattlebaum install the incoming Mayor and Councilmembers on January 4, 2016 at 6:00pm. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the safe the Town Clerk is currently using is the Mayor Miller's. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to buy a new safe for the Town Hall. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Frank Dickson asked how long the \$40,000 loan was for. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said one year.

Frank Dickson asked which councilmember was over which department and when did would this be decided for the new year. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he was over the office, Councilman Whisenhunt is over the water and sewer and maintenance, Councilwoman Bryant is over recreation and movie nights, Councilman Ott is over recreation and police, Councilman Oliver is over maintenance and Councilman Blankenship is over the recreation and police. It was decided that the new department supervisors would be decided in January.

Executive Session: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion for council to go into executive session. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council went into executive session at 7:14pm. Councilman Oliver made the motion for council to return to the regular meeting. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion the motion carried. Council return to the regular meeting at 8:09pm.

Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to approve the bid from Cattle Creek Equipment Company for \$64,075.00 for work at the new sport complex. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjournment: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Elliott", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk