

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2015

The regular council meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on August 10, 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.

Councilman Chris Ott was absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Michael Blankenship made the motion to approve the July 13, 2015 minutes. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Executive Session: Councilman Blankenship made the motion for council to go into executive session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:03. Council returned from executive session at 6:30. Councilman Oliver made the motion to return to regular session. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Council had executive session to discuss a mutual aid between Branchville Police Department and Bowman Police Department. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the mutual aid between Branchville Police Department and Bowman Police Department. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Farmers Market Sign: Councilman Oliver said Mr. Byrd was going to talk to the art teacher at BHS about making a sign for the Farmers Market this week.

Community Center: Councilman Oliver said he only had one quote and that was from Culler's Builders in Orangeburg to repair the ceiling, reglaze the windows, paint the doors and paint the walls for \$6269.32. Councilman Blankenship said he would get in touch with Johnny Chavis and have him give a quote.

Chain Link Fence: Councilman Oliver said the Town has two 40 ft rolls of chain link fence. He said ACE sells rolls of chain link fence for \$20 for 10 ft. Mayor Miler made a motion to sell one roll of 40 ft chain link fence for \$40. Council Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Additional Source of Income: Councilman Oliver said some towns are charging a hospitality tax. He said the customer will be charged 9% sales taxes when buying food or drinks that are prepared. He said the state will receive 7% and the town will receive 2%. He said the money the town receives is only allowed to go toward certain things. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would like guidelines explaining the hospitality tax.

Christmas Boxes: Councilman Oliver said last year he had boxes built to go around the Christmas Tree. He said the boxes need to be painted and Lowe's has paint on sale that customers did not like. He said the paint is on sale for \$12-\$17 per gal and he would need four or five gallons. Mayor Miller made the motion to spend up to \$100 on paint for the Christmas Boxes. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Projector: Councilwoman said the price for the projector is \$309 and the price for 120in portable screen is \$205. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to purchase the projector and the 120in screen. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Second Reading of Cox Wood Ordinance: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to approve the second reading of the Cox Wood Ordinance. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Water/Sewer Lines 118 George St: Mayor Miller said a former employee of the town told him the lines in that area run between the property lines. He said the lines runs between every two property lines and branch off. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would look into the lines next week.

Healthplex: Tim Maynard with the Healthplex said they would like the town's permission to update the building with no cost to the town. He said they would like to replace the back door, paint the interior, and pressure wash the building. He said the update would cost \$9,574.00. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to give the TRMC permission to update the Healthplex building. Mayor Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller made the motion to renew the lease agreement with the Healthplex for \$300 per month for 2 years. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was agreed that the town would repaint the parking lot signs at the Healthplex.

Playground: Mayor Miller said he had found playground equipment for \$7000 that he would like to order for the playground. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said it would be turn over to the playground committee.

Joe Breaker: Mayor Miller said Joe Breaker is employed by Experience Workers and at the end of the month Experience Worker will move him if Branchville does not hire him. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to hire Joe Breaker for 20 hours per week at his current rate. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Funding Workshop: Mayor Miller said he is going to attend a funding workshop and he would like Council to come up with ideas on what they would like funding for. Mayor Miller said he would like a spec building.

Computer Security Enhancements: Lee Hendren said the town's computer need an antivirus install; he said he also received an email from Lawtrack stating a backup is needed on Lawtrack. He said the antivirus Malware is \$25 for a year and can be used on three computers. Lee Hendren said the backup offered from Lawtrack cost \$20 per month. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to approve Malware for \$25 per year and the Lawtrack backup for \$20 per month. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RaylRode Daze: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Council needed to decide what they were going to do about clean-up for RaylRode Daze and if they are going to feed the officers. Captain Ira James said they usually have about 30 officers per day that help them. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said it concerns him that last year there were not any officers manning the barricades by the Dollar General. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would like to at least have a vehicle at the barricade. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said last year \$1602 was spent for trash cans and clean up. He also said \$510 was spent on food for the Law Enforcement. It was discussed that anyone could walk into the community center and it would work better to have it somewhere else. It was decided that the Law Enforcement would eat in the D&R building Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion that the budget be \$500 for food for the Law Enforcement. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion that two dumpsters be used and four people for clean-up. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Items for Information: Councilman Whisenhunt said he, Councilman Oliver, and Lee Hendren had a conference call about a computer software that can map out the utility lines. It will map out where a leak is, any problem with a line, any new lines, and where the employee is while on the clock. He said the startup cost is \$7000 and the yearly fee is \$4000. He said he is not recommending the town purchase it but it is a nice software and if funding could be secured it would be great.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said on July 28th he had the opportunity to be a passenger on Operation Lifesaver Train. He said the reason for the trip was to promote awareness at Railroad Crossing. He said it is not recommended to depend on the cross arms while crossing a Railroad track. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the cross arm are computerized and may not always work.

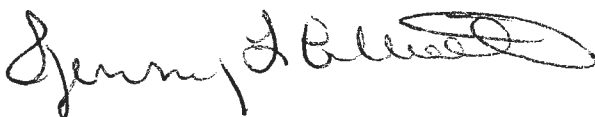
Public Comments: Charlie Byrd said he had spoken with the art teacher at the high school and she said she would begin working on the signs for the Farmers Market. He said she is making one 3x5 sign and four small signs and when the signs are ready she will call.

Charlie Byrd said he agrees with Councilman Blankenship and the town has outgrown the community center. He question if the 1% sales taxes could help with funding for a community center.

Frank Dickson said he would like to commend Mayor Miller for taking the lead on a Spec building. He said he would like to recommend that council speak with Greg Robinson about a Spec building. He said Greg Robinson could help Branchville decided what size would be needed.

Adjournment: Councilman Blankenship made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Jenny Elliott