

Town of Branchville
Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2015

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on February 9, 2015, at 6pm 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 at 6pm. Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer.

Roll call indicated all Councilmembers were present.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

Explanation of Meeting Conduct and Protocol: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Council would like for everyone to remain in order during the meeting. He said there is a public comment section on the agenda and that is when Council would like to hear from the public. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said it is hard for the clerk to maintain proper minutes with mumbling in the audience. He said Council would like to move forward.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he had one correction on the February 2nd minutes, the yard waste removal is \$252 a month but the minutes state \$252 a week.

Mayor Miller said some of the discussion on the sewer line on Ellis Ave were out of order. He said he did not say the Town got an easement from James Jones to run a line through his property. He said the minutes say that Miller had a sewage leak in a ditch and he doesn't have a sewage leak in a ditch. Councilman Michael Blankenship made a motion to approve the January 12th minutes the exception of the sewage lines on Ellis Ave until they are reviewed by using the recording. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Chris Ott made the motion to approve the January 20th minutes and February 2nd meeting minutes with the corrections be made. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports: Councilman Whisenhunt said there were corrections to the General Fund and Water and Sewer. Councilman Whisenhunt asked why the employee health insurance showed a negative amount. Town Clerk, Jenny Elliott said it was due to the employees' portion taken out of the employees' pay check and the health insurance bill not being paid yet.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said there was a \$127.89 charge on the town's Master Card to Ryan's and he would like an explanation. Mayor Miller said he took some of the employees to Ryan's for a Christmas Party. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked which employees attended the party. Mayor Miller said himself, Councilman Gregory Oliver, Paul Byrd, Joe Breaker and Thelma Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked council if a separate Christmas Party was voted on, council replied no Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if council voted to have the employee Christmas party at Main Street BBQ to which council replied yes. Mayor Miller then replied that he would pay the \$127.89. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings then stated that in order to make it official, he would make a motion that Mayor Miller refund the town the \$127.89 for the Ryan's party. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion for Mayor Miller to reimburse the Town \$127.89

for the charge on the Master Card to Ryan's. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Chris Ott made the motion to approve the financial report. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Loan Update: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Jenny Elliott had given the Council figures for monies she will need to borrow on the loan. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he would refrain from this discussion due to his affiliation with the bank. Jenny Elliott said that after she paid the bills Municipal Court balance was -\$10,212.80, General Fund balance was -\$29,566.90, Operations and Maintenance balance was -\$11,050.08 and Gross Revenue balance was 30,950.00. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to borrow \$40,000. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Water Report: Councilman Whisenhunt said the Town's water is in good condition. He said he stated last year that he and Cal Hartzog had a meeting with DHEC due to the town being over the discharge limit for the permits. Councilman Whisenhunt said DHEC reviewed what they said and reviewed the new equipment. He said DHEC gave them a consent order and the Town has to have a corrective action plan and pay \$2000.00 within 30 days. Councilman Whisenhunt said part of the corrective action plan is testing the sewer lines and new equipment. Councilman Whisenhunt said he had request that Cal Hartzog submitted a monthly letter stating that the Town is in compliance with DHEC. Councilman Whisenhunt said the Town's wastewater treatment permit is up for renewal and must be submitted to DHEC by May

1st. Councilman Whisenhunt said he and Jenny Elliott had a meeting with USDA on February 19, 2015 at 2:30 for a compliance review.

Councilman Whisenhunt said he installed a new LED light on the 2nd pole from the Chinese restaurant. He said it is a yellow light rather than a white light. Councilman Oliver said he thinks it gives off a better light.

Timber: Councilman Blankenship said he meet with Eddie Leigh from Caw Caw Land and Timber regarding access to the timber. He said Caw Caw could access the about ¼ of the timber from the campground. Councilman Blankenship said Caw Caw would have to access the timber thru CBP's lot also. He said Caw Caw assured him what was messed up due to trucks, mud, and anything having to due with moving the timber would be fixed. Mayor Miller said he meet with a worker at CBP and they would want whoever was driving thru to be responsible if the yard was messed up. Councilman Whisenhunt asked that Caw Caw and CBP would put something in writing. Mayor Miller said CBP would. Councilman Blankenship said he would get something in writing from Caw Caw. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to use Caw Caw Land and Timber to cut the Town's timber behind the campground with the stipulation made tonight. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business: Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Mayor Miller gave him a packet with information on the SC Community Development Block Grant. He said Mett's Engineering had a meeting about the Block Grant last year. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would contact Mett's for information. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said the packet also contained a summons and complaint for the school district due to the money the Town owes the school. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he contacted the town's attorney, Russell Blanchard, and he has a meeting set up for Council and the Mayor on February 13, 2015 at 2:00.

3rd Reading of 2015 Budget: Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the 3rd reading of 2015 budget. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2nd Reading of amended personnel policy ordinance: Councilman Ott said he had not receive a copy of the amended personnel policy. Mayor Pro Tem said the amended part dealt with the police overtime and vacation and sick leave. Councilman Whisenhunt said it also dealt with putting the powers back into Council. Councilman Whisenhunt said he was given an ordinance from 1998 for travel and meal reimbursement. He said according to the ordinance employees and Council should receive \$0.26 per mile for travel and \$26.00 per day for food when attending class. Councilman Whisenhunt said he changed the \$0.26 per mile to \$0.58 per miles due to what is being paid now. Councilman Oliver said he would like the personnel policy to state that employees are not to clock each other in or out and to keep the write ins on the time cards to a minimum. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of the amended personnel policy ordinance. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Ott abstained from voting due to not having a copy of the amended personnel policy.

Items for Information: Councilman Oliver said the garbage contract with Republic had been renewed for 3 years because a letter had not been sent in on time. He said Republic is willing to extend route. Councilman Oliver said he had a meeting scheduled with Waste Management on Tuesday February 18th.

Councilman Oliver asked if was correct for the Town to deal with a vendor in Town that does not have a business license. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that needed to be looked into. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked Councilman Oliver if he could look into that. Councilman Oliver said he would.

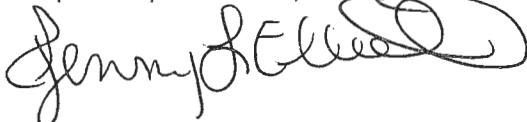
Councilman Whisenhunt asked if all the trash cans not being paid for had been picked up. Councilman Oliver said no.

Councilman Whisenhunt said in the next few months the water department is going to begin going thru sections of the Town and making sure everyone that is receiving water is paying for it.

Councilman Oliver asked if anyone had begun to work on the 2015 Christmas parade. He said he spoke with a gentleman that owns a horse and wagon and he is interested in giving rides for income. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said a good time to pass out applications for the Christmas Parade is during the RaylRode Daze Parade.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk