

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2015

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on April 13, 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 Tom Jennings. Mayor, Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Roll call indicated that all Councilmembers were present.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings welcomed the guests.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Chris Ott made the motion to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the sewer lines on Ellis Ave portion of the January 12, 2015 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to approve the March 9, 2015 minutes. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Michael Blankenship made the motion to move agenda item J4 (BYS/Rec Complex) to before executive session. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Blankenship said Orangeburg County Council has voted to spend \$100,000 on 35.4 acres behind Mt. Zion Church on S.C. 210 for a new baseball field. He said with the release of the money from the third penny sales tax referendum Branchville should have \$250,000 for parks and recreation. Councilman Blankenship made a motion to release the \$250,000 penny tax revenue for a sports complex. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion for council to go into executive session for a personnel matter. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:08pm. Council returned from executive session at 6:23pm. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to return to public session. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said council discussed a personnel matter that did not need to be voted on.

**Approval of Financial Reports:** Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to approve the financial reports. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Timber Sale:** Councilman Blankenship said he received a contract from Caw-Caw Land and Timber stating that "The Seller shall have the right to temporarily halt logging during extreme wet weather to avoid site damage that is above and beyond what is considered normal from logging practices. The buyer is required to keep all existing roads in as good condition as they were prior to cutting operations." Councilman Blankenship voted to proceed with the timber sale agreement between the

Town of Branchville and Caw-Caw Land and Timber. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Ryan's Bill:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if Mayor Miller had paid the Ryan's bill of \$127.89. Mayor Miller had not paid the bill. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to deduct \$127.89 from Mayor Miller's pay to repay the Ryan's bill. Mayor Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Sewage Line on Ellis Ave:** Mayor Miller said it is not the customer's responsibility to seek easements when lines are run. He said the line on Ellis Ave belongs to the Oretta Rd property. Mayor Miller said at the last meeting he had given council a number to call regarding the sewage line on Ellis Ave but he did not believe anyone called. Councilman Whisenhunt said the line that runs to Oretta Rd is not a main line so it is not the town's responsibility to repair the line. Councilman Whisenhunt said he would call the town's attorney the next day for legal clarification. Mayor Miller said he agreed and to put it on next month's agenda.

**Bids on Truck and Trailer:** The town did not receive any bids on the truck or trailer. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to advertise the truck for \$50,000 and the trailer for \$7,500 in the Rock and Dirt. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Municipal Judge:** Councilman Blankenship ask Lee Hendren, Clerk of Court, if Judge Quattlebaum was doing a good job. Mayor Miller said he had heard nothing but good reports about Judge Quattlebaum but he doesn't want anyone to feel like they have a permanent job. Chief Clark said he feels Judge Quattlebaum is doing an outstanding job and he is fair. Chief Clark said if the town decides to get rid of Judge Quattlebaum it would be a great loss. Mayor Miller said all the reports he had heard of Judge Quattlebaum he was doing an excellent job but that does not give anyone a permanent job and he would like to see other applications. Lee Hendren said the town needs someone who is going to show up for court every time and Judge Quattlebaum has. Lee Hendren said the town also needs someone is easily accessible for warrants or advice and Judge Quattlebaum has been easy to access. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to reappoint Judge Quattlebaum for another two years. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Final Approval for Credit Card Payments:** Councilman Blankenship asked what the charge was for using a credit card. Lee Hendren said the charge is \$1 per transaction plus 1.7% charged to the customer. Councilman Oliver asked if there would be a machine in the office that would swipe the card. Lee Hendren said not at this time. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings asked if the town had to sign a contract for this service. Lee Hendren said no, the town could cancel the service at any time. Councilman Blankenship made a motion to move forward with the credit card payments. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Water Billing:** Jenny Elliott, Town Clerk, said she had spoken with SI Solutions about water billing. The town is currently spending \$334.19 on paper, envelopes, and postage. The billing also takes two people half a day to prepare the bills. SI Solutions offers billing for 523 bills for 8 ½ x 11 inserted into envelopes for \$300.16, two- way postcard for \$233.78 or 7x 11 pressure seal for 295.50 plus a setup fee of \$175.00. Mayor Miller made the motion to use the two-way postcard. Councilman Michael Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Supervisor for water and maintenance:** Mayor Miller said the employees in the water and maintenance department need a supervisor. He said they are running wild. Councilman Whisenhunt said he did not

believe it. He said the employees get a lot of work done. Councilman Whisenhunt said he has heard from DHEC the lagoon looks the best it has in years, the water department is more prosperous and customers say they are getting good service. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he believes the water and maintenance department is being run exceptionally well. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to continue to run the water and maintenance department the same way it has been run for the last few months. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Miller voted nay. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilman Whisenhunt, Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Oliver and Councilman Blankenship voted yay. The motion carried.

**Movie Night:** Councilwoman Bryant said she is planning two more movie nights one is a western in Branch Junction and she would like the RaylRode Daze Festivul Committee to have a concession stand. She is also planning a sports movie at Horton Field and she would like Branchville Youth Sports to have a concession stand.

**Town Equipment:** Councilman Oliver said some of the town's equipment needs to be repaired. He said the gator is leaking fluid, the golf cart will not start, and the tractor is going to need a transmission in the near future. He said the employees operate the equipment too fast. Councilman Oliver said one of the town's trucks is not running and the dealership will not work on the truck. He said someone from the dealership could look at it after hours or the town could look into buying another truck. He said some of the hand tools are not usable and they need to take better care of the tools. He said the AC in the Town Hall is not working but they are coming in the morning to service it.

**Refund on Deposit for Community Center:** Jenny Elliott said someone rented the community center on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The people that rented it on Saturday did not clean up. She said she told them they could not have their deposit back because the community center was not clean and she was told that they should still get their deposit back because they didn't know someone had rented the center on Sunday. Jenny Elliott said the rental agreement they signed states the community center will be reserved for a specified day. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to not refund the deposit. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Town Truck:** Councilman Whisenhunt said he thinks the truck that the Mayor drives should remain at the Town Hall. He said it should be available to the town employees or councilmembers that are attending classes, reading meters, or investigating water complaints. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion for the town truck to be at the Town Hall. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**T&D:** Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion that a letter be drafted to the T&D that states the Mayor's comments in the newspaper article on April 3<sup>rd</sup> were not the opinion of Branchville Town Council. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Harriett Hughes asked when the Farmers Market was going to reopen. Councilman Oliver said the first week in May. Harriett Hughes asked how much it would cost for a table at the farmers market. Councilman Oliver said \$5.00.

Hiram Johnson said one of the town's employees had knocked down the power pole in his yard. He said the pole was replaced but he is still having problems with the lights working. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to buy a breaker and replace it. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried. Hiram Johnson asked if he could be refunded for the food he lost. Chief Clark said he had gone

to Hiram Johnson's house and took pictures of the food. Councilman Whisenhunt asked what the value of the food was. Chief Clark said about \$85.00. It was decided that the pictures would be presented to council and they would decide how much should be refunded.

**Items for Information:** Councilman Oliver said he printed a sign to be posted in the community center asking if there is a problem with the community center to let the town clerk know.

Mayor Miller said he found a letter stating the town had given a contractor a loan for \$12,000. He said the contractor was sent a letter requesting information on loan repayment but the contractor has not responded.

Councilman Oliver said he took a class on chemical spills response last year and they are now offering a refresher course. Councilman Oliver said he would like to attend. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to send Councilman Oliver and any other member of council to the Chemical Spills Response Training. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

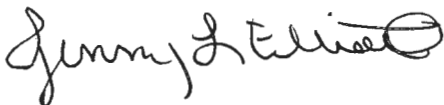
Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said Upstart Ministries submitted figures for the work that was done to the old high school totaling \$10,919.01. He said council voted to rent the old high school to Upstart Ministries for \$150.00 per month minus the repairs.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said he received a call from County Councilman Harry Wimberly and he would like to discuss future water expansion with Branchville Town Council.

Jenny Elliott said Aurora Smalls from Orangeburg County called and said if Branchville wants Orangeburg County to conduct their elections the town needs an ordinance stating that. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion that Branchville adopt an ordinance, with first reading in name only being held that night, that Orangeburg County conducts the elections with most votes win. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. The motion carried. The council meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jenny Elliott  
Town Clerk