

Council Meeting Minutes
For
September 11, 2006
Branchville Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Tim Cooner
Councilman Glenn Miller
Councilman Charles Dukes
Councilwoman Amy Bryant
Councilwoman Georgianna Harmon

OTHERS PRESENT

Rhonda Thompson Town Clerk

GUESTS

Joe Walters	Harry F. Wimberly	Kirk Nivens	D'Anne Haydel
Betty Skolasky	Debra Perugini	Michele Cardwell	Beatrice Miller
Beverly Berry	Bessie Hardwick	Carolyn Campbell	Donald Valentine
Charles Bamberg	Matthew C. Henderson	Gilda Cobb-Hunter	

Mayor Cooner asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by invocation by Councilman Glenn Miller.

Mayor Cooner welcomed all guests to the meeting and asked the Council if they did not mind he would skip around the agenda because of the present guests. Mayor Cooner went on to introduce the special guests, Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Orangeburg County Councilman Harry F. Wimberly, County Attorney Ms. D'Anne Haydel, Kirk Nivens the Town Engineer and Michelle Cardwell of USDA Rural Development.

Mayor Cooner then gave the floor to Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter. She spoke about the competitive grant process was underway, and signed off on the grant for the Town for \$100,000.00 for Town Hall renovations. She was also working on a variety of projects along with Orangeburg County Councilman Harry F. Wimberly. Representative Cobb-Hunter then presented the check to Mayor Cooner. Mayor Cooner and the Town Council members took a picture for the T&D of the check presented by representative Cobb-Hunter.

Representative Cobb-Hunter then spoke of the Heritage Corridor, and there are a number of sites here in our community that are historical and of cultural significance such as the Branchville depot and the significance of railroad history there. She also reminded us once history is gone you can never get it back. Representative Cobb-Hunter was supportive to see the depot restored to the shining jewel that it is. She reminded us of the Operation Live Saver coming here through town and Branchville was the last stop.

Mayor Cooner appreciates was the delegation does and how competitive the grant is to apply for and how fortunate we are to be the recipients of the grant.

Mayor Cooner introduced Michelle Cardwell and let her have the floor. Ms. Cardwell came to explain and go over the letter of conditions for the second phase of the Regional Water Project. Mayor Cooner and the Town Clerk then signed official papers for the second phase and stamped with the Town's seal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro tem Charles Dukes made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7th and August 24th town council meetings with a second from Councilman Glenn Miller.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS/NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Cooner public comments on items of agenda , having none hearing none. Moved on to public comments of other matters.

-Mr. Valentine then took the floor and said he did not have time to write a contract to propose to sub-leasing a couple of rooms to Ms. Peele to open a Christian Book Store.

-Ms. Peele then spoke that she thought the book store would be an asset to the Town.

-Councilwoman Harmon suggested that since this was a contractual matter it should be discussed in executive session.

-Mayor Cooner added that executive session to the agenda to discuss sub-leasing of the old school property.

-Councilwoman Amy Bryant questioned trash cans and bathrooms up at Horton Field Mayor Cooner said we were working on water presently. Councilwoman Bryant also stated that there was a cable in the road on Bridge street Mayor Cooner talked to the cable guy and told him to remove the cable immediately

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Cooner asked pleasure and Councilman Glenn Miller had question regarding money spent at community center, Mayor Cooner responded electric bill money. Then Councilman Glenn Miller asked about money regarding the bill at the old school for lights. Mayor Cooner stated when lights are turned back on that generates monthly bill. Councilman Glenn Miller questioned a bill estimating \$900.00 and Mayor Cooner responded by stating that had gotten paid twice which is a mix up from the former Town Clerk. The bill was two months instead of one. Councilman Glenn Miller moved to approve financial report and Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

Committee and Staff Reports

Police Department

-Mayor Cooner stated that the Ms. Bettie Rhoad fell in the new resturant across the street and was taken to Dr. O'Quinn and to the hospital in Orangeburg and it is confirmed he has broken her other hip. Will have surgery in Orangeburg tomorrow. Police department planning for the upcoming Railrode Daze and have other municipals joinging in our effort to keep the streets as safe as possible. Mayor Cooner said he has a couple of tickets

and he wanted motion for councilpersons approve for signature. Mayor Pro Tem Charles Dukes motioned and Councilman Glenn Miller seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner discussed the possibility of water and sewer rate increases. Rate increase would go into effect start of construction. These new rates are at the level that Michelle Cardwell with USDA – RD said the Towns needs to be. Mayor Cooner shared some examples of other municipalities' water rates. Mayor Cooner asked for motion to increase water rates. Councilman Glenn Miller motioned and Amy Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- Mayor Cooner has two tickets for the train
- Mayor Cooner wants to attend SC Rural Water Association in Myrtle Beach in November
- Mayor Cooner was nominated for manager of the year on small water system and the Town was nominated for small water system of the year.
- Councilman Glenn Miller mentioned the stray dogs running wild and Mayor Cooner said we would place leash laws into affect.

Mayor Pro Tem Charles Dukes made the motion for executive session and Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded. Motion carried.

After executive session Council reported:

After careful review of contract between the Town of Branchville and Donald Valentine, Mayor Cooner stated that the contract reads subleasing would only be allowed if signed off by the Town of Branchville. Mayor Cooner asked if Council had questions regarding the contract and they had none. The Council deliberated the subject and the conclusion was not in favor of subleasing, but the Town does welcome new businesses. Councilwoman Amy Bryant motioned and Benita Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Thompson
Town Clerk