

Council Meeting Minutes
For
June 4, 2007
Branchville Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Tim Cooner
Councilman Glenn Miller
Councilwoman Benita Gibbs
Councilwoman Georgianna Harmon
Councilman Chris Ott
Councilwoman Amy Bryant
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Dukes

OTHERS PRESENT

Rhonda Thompson Town Clerk

GUESTS

Beverly Berry	Bessie Hardwick	Tricia Cilwik	Beatrice Miller
John Goodwin	Luther Folk	Carolyn Campbell	Debra Perugini
Betty Skolasky			

Mayor Cooner asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Cooner welcomed everyone and spoke to the guests present. Mayor Cooner then advised the Council he needed to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter agreement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council on the approval of minutes, Councilman Ott motioned and Councilman Miller seconded.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS/NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Cooner asked for public comments on items of agenda, hearing none, Mr. Luther Folk announced that on May 14th, 2007 postage would go up to \$.41 for a stamp and \$.26 for a postcard. Mayor Cooner advised the Council to be in compliance with one of the grants we have applied for, we had to have a poster contest in relation to Fair Housing Month. Mayor Cooner asked the Council during the meeting to look around and decide who they think should win and after executive session Council could decide the winners and what type of prizes they would receive. Mayor Cooner moved on to say that the Town was approached an individual who was interested in opening a Tatto Parlor, and this type of business is not in the Town's ordinance at the present time. Ms. Tricia Silwik spoke about the Tatto Parlor she wished to open in the Town. Ms. Silwik spoke regarding all areas she would have to comply with, in opening the Tatto Parlor. She said the license was a small part compared to the regulations she would have with the State

and DHEC. Mayor Cooner found in the ordinance where Council could vote to amend and Councilman Miller stated the Tatto Parlor should be close to a Barber/Beauty Shop and Mayor Cooner said the business license rate should be \$25.00 for the first \$5,000.00 and \$.50 for every \$1,000.00 thereafter. Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council of approving the Tatto Parlor to open with a one-year temporary license, Councilman Miller motioned and Councilwoman Harmon seconded. Ms. Berry mentioned the trash can that it utilized by the Chinese Restaurant and the smell that comes from it and Mayor Cooner said we would get Captain Hart to handle that matter, because that would fall under the Town statute of Health and Property Maintenance. Mayor Cooner brought before Council that he would like to amend ordinance, 030705 section 5-08, Health and Property Maintenance, Rubbish and Garbage, Section D, to state no garbage containers should be visible from any main road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OF OTHER MATTERS

Mayor Cooner asked if anyone had anything to say.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Cooner asked pleasure of approving the financial report and Councilman Ott motioned and Councilman Miller seconded.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

Police Department

-Mayor Cooner stated that the Police Department was doing an outstanding job. Mayor Cooner said he appointed Captain Hart to be the Code Enforcement Officer and he is doing a good job. Mayor Cooner said later in the month he was to send an officer to Hurricane Preparedness class. Mayor Cooner then discussed in great detail how the Town's employees and volunteers need to be properly trained in case of any kind of emergency, whether a Natural Disaster should occur, such as a Hurricane, or something catastrophic like a train derailment. Mayor Cooner said there needs to be a master plan put together that would explain exactly what needs to be done, in case an emergency should arise.

Administrative Office

-Mayor Cooner asked Councilman Miller said nothing.

Public Works

-Mayor Cooner said these men are doing a good job, and mentioned just today they replaced the stove and hot water heater in the Community Center and also fixed the refrigerator. Mayor Cooner said the wells and ponds were working well and they are busy keeping the grass cut.

Mayors Report

Mayor Cooner said nothing new to report on tonight.

Beautification Committee

Mayor Cooner said he and Captain Hart met with the beautification committee earlier tonight and they have a good plan in place to start cleaning up this Town.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner said he did not have anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner said he did not have anything but did mention that he would run an ad in the paper for bids for a new roof at the Freight Depot. Mayor Cooner said he would love to see a new roof on that building by September. Mayor Cooner said that they worked the flowerbeds early this year. The Town usually works them in September but the Mayor wanted it to look nice for the summer traffic as well as the local Townspeople.

PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mayor Cooner said I know it seems as if nothing is being done, but it is a slow process. Mayor Cooner said we will get the money, but then you have to get bids, and if we get approval then we can proceed. Mayor Cooner said he does look forward to Streetscape starting and it will be going on during the annual Rail Rode Daze Festival.

Mayor Cooner said a long time ago he challenged USDA, Berney Wright, and they had a long heated debate but Mayor Cooner said he finally ended winning. Mayor Cooner said the other night he went to the debate in Columbia and he sat at the table with Berney Wright, who is a Democrat that served with the Clinton administration. Mayor Cooner said Mr. Wright was a fine fellow and hoped he might get back in with the Department of Agriculture, because Mr. Wright made sure the community who was in need received the money. Mayor Cooner said he was in Columbia, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and ran into Jim Hodges, Jim Clyburn and had his picture taken with Hilary Clinton and had her autograph it. Mayor Cooner said that they should come back on the 12th, and he was trying to Bill Clinton come to eat at the Eatery before Mayor Cooner leaves office.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Mayor Cooner said he had no items of information at this time.

Mayor Cooner said if no further business, we need to go into executive session; lets have a two-minute recess.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Thompson
Town Clerk