

SPECIAL
Council Meeting Minutes
For
August 9, 2007
Branchville Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Tim Cooner
Mayor Pro Tem Dukes - Present
Councilman Glenn Miller - Present
Councilwoman Georgianna Harmon - Absent
Councilwoman Amy Bryant – Present
Councilwoman Benita Gibbs – Present
Councilman Chris Ott - Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Rhonda Thompson Town Clerk

GUESTS

Dan Campbell Debra Perugini Betty Skolasky Treesa Suggs
Sharon Ott Donald Valentine

Mayor Cooner called the meeting to order and asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Cooner welcomed everyone out tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS/NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Cooner asked for public comments on items of agenda. hearing none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OF OTHER MATTERS

Mayor Cooner asked for public comments on other matters. hearing none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner addressed the Council and advised them that on yesterday OSHA came to visit the Town of Branchville. OSHA had received a complaint from an employee with six concerns. Mayor Cooner discussed in detail the complaints that OSHA received and were explained to the Mayor during the visit. Councilwoman Bryant asked if this employee confronted the Mayor about these concerns and Mayor Cooner said that he was in his office when the Town Clerk told him that there was a man from OSHA that was here to see him, was the first he knew of anything about the concerns. Mayor Cooner said we should receive a letter from OSHA in two to three weeks that would include the penalties for these issues. The Town of Branchville can be penalized from \$500.00 on up

and there are several ways that the Town can appeal these penalties. The Mayor said he would take a day and go to Columbia to the hearing to have the penalty reduced. Mayor Cooner said that he wished this employee of the Town, that had these concerns, had addressed the governing body of the Town, to try to rectify these issues. Mayor Cooner said the entire staff worked today, in the shop area, trying to get organized and in compliance. Mayor Cooner then shared with the Council a number of items that need to be purchased to comply with these OSHA regulations.

Mayor Cooner said the Town Employees will have a first aid meeting every month and the Town Clerk will take minutes and keep them in a binder. Mayor Cooner said we had the first meeting this morning and Officer Linda Luck was appointed to have the next one in September. Mayor Cooner said that Councilman Miller worked with OSHA in his present occupation, and Councilman Miller said he would be glad to help out in any way possible, because he had dealt with OSHA just today on some of these same issues. Councilman Miller also stated that he is qualified to train someone on some of these issues. Mayor Cooner said he would like to get with him one-on-one to see when he might be able to do some training. Councilman Miller said there is no day to wait, because for sure, OSHA will be back. Councilwoman Gibbs said she was willing to volunteer her time and help, because she has been through OSHA inspections in her present occupation, with the Department of Transportation.

Mayor Cooner then spoke about how the Town will suffer from having to pay penalties as well as the purchases that will be made in rectifying these complaints. Mayor Cooner said he would have to strongly consider raising water and sewer rates as well as implementing a tax increase, to offset a financial struggle for the Town.

Mayor Cooner reminded everyone on how far the Town has progressed in the past decade.

Mayor Cooner asked everyone to walk back in the shop area after the meeting for a walk through, so he could show everyone the corrective action that has already been taken today, and what actions are next on the agenda. Mayor Cooner also asked for suggestions from the Council on what they see that needs to be done.

Councilwoman Bryant asked if Councilpersons were considered employees of the Town and Mayor Cooner said he did not know. Councilman Miller said whomever it was that did this, was not done with good intentions, and if they had good intentions they would have addressed the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Cooner asked anyone that could provide us with some training it would be greatly appreciated. Councilman Miller said he could provide some training and Councilwoman Gibbs said she would check with the SCDOT and see what certifications she had and would help with training. There was a guest, Mr. Dan Campbell, said he was qualified to train in several different aspects of what our employees would need, and would glad to help in any way that he could.

Mayor Cooner asked for approval from Council to purchase the necessary items to get the Town in compliance with OSHA's rules and regulations. Councilwoman Bryant motioned and Councilwoman Gibbs seconded.

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion to adjourn and Mayor Pro Tem Dukes motioned and Councilwoman Bryant seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Thompson
Town Clerk