

Council Meeting Minutes
For
November 5, 2007
Branchville Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rhonda Thompson Town Clerk

GUESTS

Betty Skolasky	Debra Perugini	Janessa Perugini	Carolyn Campbell
Joe Walters	Sammie Ruple	Luther Folk	Richard Skolasky
Keith Nuzzi	Anthony Perugini	Dan Campbell	Sharon Ott
Treesa Suggs	Beverly Berry	Phyllis Overstreet	Betty Blaylock
Luvenia Williams	Beatrice Miller		

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.

Mayor Cooner asked the Council if he could add to the agenda the 2008 Proposed Budget and also the Christmas Party. Mayor Pro Tem Dukes motioned and Councilman Miller seconded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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 of any other matter. Mr. Mark Ott said he was here again and this was the third year in a row that he has had to listen to the noise coming from the Peanut Plant. Mr. Ott then shared with the Mayor and Council a

petition he had signed by forty-nine citizens of the Town, who wondered what would be done about the noise coming from the Peanut Plant. Mayor Cooner said steps have been made in trying to remedy the noise situation. Mayor Cooner said a meeting was held and a barrier of dirt was compiled to help block some of the noise. Mr. Joe Walters asked what the Town of Branchville was gaining from having this Peanut Plant here. Mayor Cooner said that farmers feed us everyday, and Councilwoman Harmon said not those farmers. Councilman Miller said the farmers offered to turn the trailers sideways to help buffer the noise and if that has not been done, maybe we need to ask them to do that. Mayor Cooner said he would try and schedule another meeting with the Peanut Board of Directors and let them know that something needs to be done; once and for all to correct the noise problem before the 2008 peanut season begins. Councilwoman Harmon then questioned why the Peanut Plant did not have a business license and why they were not hooked up on Town water. Mayor Cooner said farmers/agricultural were exempt from getting a business license and as far as the water were concerned it would not be feasible for the Town to run water lines out there for the seasonal work which lasts six to eight weeks.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council for approving the financial report. Councilman Ott motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Dukes seconded.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

Police Department

-Mayor Cooner said the Police Department is doing a good job and that we have had a series of break-ins lately. Mayor Cooner said we have brought in more officers and that creates more expenses. Mayor Cooner asked for everyone to look out for his or her neighbors. Captain Hart spoke to say that after 6:00 pm if you need a police you would have to call the County and they will dispatch our officers out, the number to call would be 534-3550.

Administrative Office

-Mayor Cooner asked Councilman Miller if he had anything. Councilman Miller said he received a copy of the letter that was sent to SC Regional Housing Authority and nothing has been done and also the cable lines were still laying all over Town. Mayor Cooner said that Rhonda Thompson just attended a three-day class in Charleston regarding business licenses. Mayor Cooner said the Clerk met a lot of people that will be helpful when we are implementing the new business license ordinance and thought that was money well spent.

Public Works

-Mayor Cooner said everything seems to be running along fine. Mayor Cooner said everything is in line for bidding the Regional Water Project.

Mayors Report

-Mayor Cooner said the Town has money allocated for the roof of the Freight Depot. Mayor Cooner said the bid ran three separate times and only one contractor bid on the

project and that bid was way to high. Mayor Cooner said the Town's engineer Niven's and Niven's revised the plans to restore the roof and some type of temporary fencing until we can get this property transferred to the Town by the Rail Road. Councilman Miller requested that when the Freight Depot is restored that the final payment not be made until Council agrees that all work has been completed. Councilwoman Harmon questioned why we did not go out for bids again since the specs changed. Mayor Cooner said that Nivens put this package together for the Town based on the money we had allocated. Mayor Cooner said if we find out that it does not have to go out for re-bid what does the Council want to do? Councilman Miller motioned to proceed if it does not have to go out for re-bid and Councilwoman Bryant seconded. Councilwoman Harmon-Nay.

Mayor Cooner said we have a termite problem at the Museum and it needs a treatment at the cost of \$3300.00 and an annual contract for treatment at \$700.00 per year. Councilwoman Gibbs motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Dukes seconded.

Mayor Cooner said that he failed to mention earlier that they needed to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner stated that Council needed to decide about what we are going to do about the Community Development Ordinance. Mayor Cooner said if it were OK with Council let's have the 1st reading tonight and set up a meeting with Harold Young who is over this and call a special meeting with him. Mayor Pro Tem Dukes motioned and Councilwoman Bryant seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cooner mentioned the SCRWA 31st annual conference in Myrtle Beach and said he would like to go and asked if anyone else would like to go. Mayor Cooner then mentioned Christmas Parade and Christmas Party. It was decided that in lieu of a Christmas Parade this year we would have an Old Fashioned Christmas Tree Lighting on November 23rd at the Rail Road Museum from 6:00 to 8:00 and Councilwoman Bryant was nominated to be in charge. Councilman Ott was nominated to be in charge of getting a tree. Mayor Cooner went on to discuss the Christmas Party and it was decided that December 14th at 7:00 pm would be the date and time for the Party and the menu would consist of Steaks & Baked Potato's with all the fixings.

Mayor Cooner then discussed a letter received from Carolina Dentac. owned and run by Dr. Dwight D. McMillan, Jr. This is a mobile unit Dentist Office and Mayor Cooner spoke with him over the phone and explained that the Town was seeking a full time Dentist with an office located here.

Mayor Cooner then passed out to Council a memo regarding the Streetscape Grant and bids will close on November 29th at 3:00.

Mayor Cooner passed out the proposed budget for 2008 to all Councilpersons. Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council for the 1st reading on the budget and Councilman Ott motioned and Councilman Miller seconded. Mayor Cooner then discussed the possibility of changing the program that we use for our budget and in doing so, when we pay bills weekly, the bottom line changes on a weekly basis and it would be a no brainer to figure out exactly where the Town stands as far as the budget is concerned.

Mayor Cooner said advised Council about Christmas Bonus's for all employees.

PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mayor Cooner reported on this item earlier in the meeting tonight.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Mayor Cooner said that Mrs. Luvenia Williams carried her Seniors to the Lieutenant Governor's Office a few weeks ago.

Mayor Cooner asked for a vote to go into executive session, Councilwoman Bryant motioned and Councilwoman Gibbs seconded.

During executive session the Council decided that the Town Clerk needed to research any renters that the Town has and if any of them are past due with payment, a letter of corrective action needs to be sent.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rhonda Thompson
Town Clerk