

Special  
Council Meeting Minutes  
For  
March 17, 2008  
Branchville Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Rhonda Thompson    Town Clerk

**GUESTS**

Debra Perugini	Betty Skolasky	Beverly Berry	Gidget Vickers
Tim Harmon	John H. Smith	Phyllis Overstreet	

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

Mayor Cooner welcomed everyone out tonight.

Mayor Cooner then introduced John Smith who is the Orangeburg County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Mr. Smith spoke to say on Sunday morning after the tornado the very first thing that was done was to insure everyone's safety. Mr. Smith said after that assessments were done and that information would be sent to State Emergency Management and from that agency the information would be forwarded to FEMA and other federal agencies that might be able to offer assistance. Mr. Smith then shared that a PDA (Preliminary Damage Assessment) had been done on Sunday as well and it was determined that approximately 54 buildings had been damaged from the storm which included all of those from minor damage to buildings that were destroyed.

Mr. John Smith went on to tell about Small Business Loans for about 2% interest and Mayor Cooner said that the Town wasn't interested in loans, the Town and all those involved wanted assistance from FEMA. Mr. Smith said the accumulated damage from the entire state of South Carolina would have to be approximately five millions dollars in damage from uninsured and underinsured individuals and businesses, for FEMA assistance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of council on the second reading the new Business License Ordinance Councilwoman Harmon motioned and Councilman Dukes seconded. Councilman Ott, Mayor Pro Tem Miller, and Councilwoman Bryant nay.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooner then discussed and read the Resolution 08-03-17, The Town of Branchville. Mayor Cooner then asked the pleasure of Council for adopting this resolution and Councilman Ott motioned and Councilwoman Gibbs seconded.

Mayor Cooner then spoke about the disaster that occurred on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, as to what his findings were when he got into Town late that same evening. Mayor Cooner also discussed the emergency actions were taken to insure that the Towns people were safe, and mentioned all the other agencies that came into Town to assist. Mayor Cooner said the met with Roy Judy who is with SCE&G, who had crews out all night long trying to restore power. Mayor Cooner said one of the first priorities of restoring power was at the school.

Mayor Cooner said he was not happy at all with the discussion that he had with the governor earlier today. Mayor Cooner stated all of the structures and property that the Town owned that was damaged or destroyed. Mayor Cooner then stated that he was not happy about the assessed damage for the Town of Branchville.

Mayor Cooner explained how the County of Orangeburg and the City of Orangeburg responded to this disaster and what the plans are for these two agencies in the next couple of weeks on assisting the Town of Branchville to get cleaned up.

Mayor Cooner then explained what buildings that the Town owned that had insurance on them. Mayor Cooner said that the Town Hall was insured for \$600,000 and the contents were insured for \$175,000. Mayor Cooner said that the Town had more assets than we can afford to insure.

Mayor Cooner said Town Hall has been set up in the Maintenance building that was located behind the Town Hall building that was destroyed. Mayor Cooner said under the circumstances that we would postpone the reading of water meters for one week.

Mayor Cooner said that this coming Friday is Good Friday and we usually are closed and if things continue to go as it has today, Mayor Cooner said he would probably let everyone have the day off. There was some discussion at this time regarding police coverage for the Town and other agencies and constables helping out.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that the Councilpersons need some type of identification so when disasters happen they will be allowed to come down the street. Mayor Pro Tem Miller went on to say that he commends the Mayor as well as all the other agencies that were here in Town, who came to offer assistance.

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion from Council to approve Town employees to enter onto private property to assist in the clean up of the Town, Councilwoman Gibbs motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Miller seconded.

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion to adjourn and Councilman Dukes motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Miller seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rhonda Thompson  
Town Clerk