

Council Meeting Minutes  
For  
April 7, 2008  
Branchville Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Rhonda Thompson    Town Clerk

**GUESTS**

Carolyn Campbell	Norris Jarrett	Luther Folk	Charlie S. Byrd
Sammie Ruple	Phyllis Overstreet	Betty Skolasky	Gidget Vickers
Kirk Nivens	Luvenia Williams	Beatrice Miller	Betty Blaylock
Tonya Ledwell	Sharon Ott		

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 advised Council that he wanted to add executive session to the agenda to discuss a personnel matter and Councilwoman Bryant motioned and Councilman Ott seconded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council on the approval on minutes from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 meeting Councilwoman Bryant motioned and Councilman Ott seconded.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS/NON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Cooner asked for public comments. Mr. Charlie Byrd said that he was speaking on behalf of the School and that there was going to be a blood drive at the High School tomorrow (Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>) and asked for donors and then Mr. Byrd asked about the Regional Water Project and the Mayor said there would be a pre-construction meeting on next Tuesday at 11:00am. Mr. Byrd also asked the Mayor and Council to see about getting the lights and water turned back on at the Old Elementary School gym so the children would have a place to play basketball this summer.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS OF OTHER MATTERS**

Mayor Cooner asked for public comments of other matters and Betty Skolasky asked about the summer water rates. Mayor Cooner said that was one of the topics to be discussed tonight.

## **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council for approving the financial report. Councilman Ott motioned and Councilwoman Bryant seconded.

## **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**Police Department** – Mayor Cooner said that Officer Linda Luck represented the Branchville Police Department tonight and Officer Jervey Ayers represented the Orangeburg Sheriff's Department. Mayor Cooner told Officer Ayers that the Sheriff's Department had done an outstanding job for the Town of Branchville since the tornado.

### **Administrative Office**

-Mayor Cooner asked Mayor Pro Tem Miller if he had anything. Mayor Pro Tem Miller said nothing at this time.

### **Public Works**

-Mayor Cooner said everything is running along well and the Water Department will be having DHEC sanitary survey in the next couple of weeks.

### **Mayors Report**

-Mayor Cooner said at this time he was going to skip around some on the agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooner said there was no old business to discuss tonight.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooner said the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading on the New Business License Ordinance, Councilwoman Bryant said it was a bad time to increase license rates, Mayor Pro Tem Miller said because of the way out of Town people were being charged he would have to Nay. Mayor Cooner asked for the third time a motion for the third and final reading. Mayor Cooner said that we do need a new Ordinance.

Mayor Cooner advised Council that he believed that the Town should offer the summer water program, and Mayor Pro Tem Miller motioned for the summer water program and Councilwoman Gibbs seconded.

Mayor Cooner said that the County has completed tearing down the Old Town Hall building as well as the Old High School Gym. Mayor Cooner said the campground site is being used as a holding area for the debris from those two buildings and eventually the Town will have to pay for disposal of that debris at the cost of \$42.00 per ton. Mayor Cooner said that he has received several requests for some of the brick from the Old

Town Hall and Gym. The more the Town can give away, the less the Town will have to pay for disposal. The Mayor and Council agreed to let whomever that wanted debris to get what they wanted, but must first sign a waiver stating that the Town would not be responsible for any mishaps that might happen at the campground.

Mayor Cooner said that Mr. Kirk Nivens was present tonight to explain procurement and other things of that nature regarding the building of a New Town Hall. Mayor Cooner said that the Old Town Hall building was a total loss and the insurance for the structure was valued at \$600,000 and the contents were valued at \$175,000. Mayor Cooner said that the Community Center, the Maintenance Building and the Dentist Building has some damage each, and the Town is not exactly sure how much insurance money will be allocated for these buildings. Mayor Cooner said that the Town received three quotes on the old scrap metal from the Old Gym and the high bidder was for \$1870.00 and the Town has already received payment on that.

Mr. Nivens explained to the Mayor and Council that the standard procurement process would be about two years. Mr. Nivens then stated that the alternate action that could be taken would be to pass an emergency resolution and in doing so could bypass the procurement process and have a New Town Hall built in a much shorter time frame. Mr. Nivens then introduced three different sets of blue prints for a New Town Hall Building. Mr. Nivens reiterated that the only way that the Town could go ahead with starting a New Town Hall would be to adopt a resolution under an emergency situation.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that careful planning needs to be done for the New Town Hall or the Town would make mistakes they would regret for the rest of their lives. Mayor Pro Tem Miller said our Town is almost dead we don't want to bury it. At this time there was much discussion regarding where the New Town Hall should be placed.

Mr. Norris Jarrett spoke to say that he felt Council should decide to skip the procurement, and pass the emergency resolution to go ahead and get started on a New Town Hall Building.

Mayor Cooner said that Council would first need to decide the site for the New Town Hall Building, Councilwoman Bryant motioned to rebuild at the site where the Old Town Hall was built, and Councilman Ott seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Miller – Nay. Mayor Pro Tem Miller said to let the record show that he does not agree and that the Town is going about a New Town Hall in the wrong way.

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion to adjourn to go into executive session, Councilman Dukes motioned and Councilwoman Bryant seconded.

Mayor Cooner called the meeting back to order. Mayor Cooner said that in executive session only a personnel matter was discussed.

Mayor Cooner asked for the three Councilpersons who wanted to be on the committee. Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Ott, and Councilman Dukes volunteered for the committee.

Mayor Cooner said to let the record show that he doesn't care if we ever build a Town Hall back, and the Mayor said he could serve the rest of his term out of the back seat of his pick up truck. Mayor Cooner said he did not care if it took ten years to build back another Town Hall.

**PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS**

This item was not covered tonight.

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

This item was not covered tonight.

Mayor Cooner asked for a meeting to adjourn and Councilman Ott motioned and Councilman Dukes seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rhonda Thompson  
Town Clerk