

Council Meeting Minutes  
For  
September 8, 2008  
Branchville Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Tim Cooner  
Councilwoman Benita Gibbs  
Councilman Chris Ott  
Councilwoman Georgianna Harmon  
Councilwoman Amy Bryant

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Teresa Suggs                      Town Clerk

**GUESTS**

Melody Ethridge	Betty Blaylock	Phyllis A Overstreet	Sharon Ott
Beverly Berry	Desiree Connelly	Tom Jennings	Bettie Rhoad
Olivia Hughes	Shirley O'Brien	Carolyn Campbell	Delores Gunter
Luther Folk	Harriet Hughes	Ami Cooner	John Goodwin
Vivian Fogle			

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 all guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Cooner asked the pleasure of Council on the approval of the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. Councilman Chris Ott motioned and Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded. Minutes approved with Councilwoman Harmon naying.

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

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS OF OTHER MATTERS**

\*Melody Ethridge asked about the status of the library at the welcome center. Mayor Cooner answered that the Town was waiting on a response from the County.

\*Councilman Dukes clarified that he had voted for the library to use the welcome center only on a temporary basis. Councilwoman Harmon stated that the vote appeared to grant the library use of the center permanently. Council decided to revisit the issue after hearing from the county.

\*Councilman Dukes and Mayor Cooner clarified for the guests and newspaper that the Town did not run out of money for the Welcome Center. They stated that the money is

still available but was being held until the use for the building is decided. Different ideas for the building were discussed.

\*Guests asked about a medical fund started to help Dr. OQuinn go to medical school that was repaid. Being that it is not a Town owned account, Luther Folk stated he would find out more information.

\*Mayor Cooner reassured all present that having the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the new Town Hall would not cause the floor to fall in.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Council decided to delay the vote on the financial reports until the special meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> due to not having time to review them.

Mayor Cooner explained the Financial Report Process, complete with corresponding deposit slips etc, and assured everyone present that his office has nothing to hide.

Mayor Cooner again urged Council to work together so that the Town may move forward.

Mayor Cooner asked the Council to think about a new Town emblem to be used on the cake for the Town's birthday celebration on kickoff Sunday of Raylerode Daze.

Mayor Cooner announced that Kirk Nivens and Nivens & Nivens Engineering will be resigning after the Regional Water Project and Streetscape Projects are complete. He asked that Council consider using a local engineers, William Metts and Ethan Beeks.

Councilwoman Amy Bryant requested that the street lights be brighter on main street. Mayor Cooner stated that more lights are to be installed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Charles Dukes made a motion to approve the first reading of the Fifth Supplemental Ordinance in accordance with USDA requirements for the regional water project with a second from Benita Gibbs. Motion approved.

Councilman Charles Dukes made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to First Amended Agreement with Orangeburg County with a second from Councilwoman Gibbs. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cooner asked Council to approve the purchase of a new police car to replace a wrecked police car. Mayor Cooner stated that silver patrol car would also be sold to finance the car. With the insurance payment of \$4380 as a down payment, the payments would be \$412.28 per month for 48 months. After the Mayor explained the police fines, Councilman Chris Ott made a motion to purchase the vehicle with a second from Councilwoman Amy Bryant. Councilwoman Harmon nayed. Motion passed.

### **PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Mayor Cooner updated Council on the Cattle Creek Water Project.

Councilman Charles Dukes made a motion to go into executive session with a second from Councilman Chris Ott.

After returning from executive session Council reported the following discussed:

- Councilman Charles Dukes made a motion to approve the salary increase for an employee to \$7.50 per hour with a second from Councilwoman Amy Bryant. Motion carried.

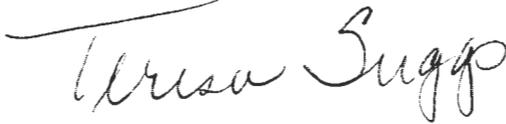
Councilwoman Harmon asked the status of the Peanut Plant. Mayor Cooner stated a letter has been written and the Town is waiting on a response as to actions taken by the plant.

Councilman Charles Dukes made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilman Chris Ott.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted.

Teresa Suggs  
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Suggs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.