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COUNCIL MINUTES  
FOR  
DEC. 14, 2009

COUNCIL PRESENT

MAYOR TIMOTHY COONER  
MAYOR PRO TEM GLENN MILLER  
COUNCILWOMAN AMY BRYANT  
COUNCILMAN CHRIS OTT  
COUNCILWOMAN GEORGIANNA HARMON

Mayor Cooner called the meeting to order and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence

Mayor Cooner welcomed everyone to the meeting

Councilwoman Amy Bryant made the motion to approve the Minutes  
Councilman Chris Ott seconded the motion  
Motion Carried

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items

Public Comments on Other Matters, Mrs. Phyllis Overstreet asked Mayor Cooner if he had any information about the Asbestos Clean Up Co.

Mayor Cooner replied it should be around the first of the year before we will know any thing

There was much discussion on the Financial Report.

Mayor Cooner stated that last week he had met with the Renae from McGregor and she agreed that our business program is very hard to understand. He said the Town used to have the Quick Books Program which provided a much better Financial report Mayor Cooner said that he has spoken with Don Nicholson and that we are happy with the Business Licenses, LawTrak, and Payroll portion of this current program. Don Nicholson has agreed to take us off contract. We will be going with Quick Books some time in January. The Mayor also said that he and the auditor feel that Nicholson Business System is too involved for the Town of Branchville. Our line items should be the same every year, we used to have one piece of paper that had the balances on it. We feel it would be a lot easier for everyone to understand and track with the Quick Books program. We will have 3 different programs in Quick Books, Operations and Maintnance, General Fund, and Municipal Court.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that there is a problem with this and we could talk about it forever.

Mayor Cooner said he has discussed all this with McGregor and Co. and they are willing to help us over the phone if necessary.

Councilwoman Harmon said that we are supposed to be voting on the financials every month and we haven't been.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that he didn't like this program from the very beginning and he regrets that so much money was wasted, but there is a lot of that going on.

Mayor Cooner stated that the reason Quick Books was not working for us the last time was because we had it on O+M, GR, GF, and Police all in one program.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said, The point is we see it's not working, what do we do about it?

Mayor Cooner said that we go to Quick Books

Councilwoman Harmon said we are supposed to have a Budget by January 1 why don't we have one?

Mayor Cooner replied we will have to wait on the Audit

Councilwoman Harmon said have you made up your mind? Don't we need to put that in some form of a motion?

Councilman Ott made the motion to use Quick Books

Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion

Motion Carried

There was no report for the Police Dept.

There was no report for the Administrative Office

Councilwoman Harmon asked what the new Police Officer's names are,

Mayor Cooner replied David Barnette and Robert White

Councilwoman Harmon said that our Town Ordinance says it is to be brought to Council to hire new officers.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that it was voted on to let the Mayor handle that

Councilwoman Harmon stated that we need to abide by the Ordinance

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said if we abide by one we need to abide by them all

Councilwoman Harmon said that she has gone thru a lot of Ordinance's this past week and she made a motion to go thru the Ordinance's and get them up to date.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said I agree.

Councilwoman Harmon said she has asked Council to go thru the Ordinance's and get a good foundation.

Mayor Cooner said, Ok what else?

Councilwoman Harmon asked if we were going to have an extra meeting this month

Mayor Cooner replied yes.

Councilwoman Harmon asked if Council wanted to be involved with the Budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that we need to be involved, we need to act as a Council.

Councilwoman Harmon said, You've got the Administrative Office here and what exactly are you responsible for?

Mayor Pro Tem Miller replied, when it is time for me I will tell you.

Mayor Cooner said let's move on

Mayor Cooner said in Public Works everything is pretty good there.

Councilwoman Harmon questioned how the radio read meters work, who is doing it?

Mayor Cooner replied, Hank and Teresa.

Councilwoman Harmon said, so she is showing them how to do it?

Mayor Cooner replied yes.

Councilwoman Harmon asked if Tommy Jennings had been replaced yet.

Mayor Cooner said no I don't think that position needs to be replaced.

A concerned citizen asked we they are smelling chlorine in their water.

Mayor Cooner explained that the chlorine is lasting longer now that cold weather is here and that we are within our legal limits it will take about two weeks for it to straighten out.

There was much more discussion on the water system.

Councilwoman Harmon said she had a couple things under old business she asked What happened to our Christmas Party?

Mayor Cooner replied, we had no one to cook and clean up.

Councilwoman Harmon said anyone upset? Does Council want to have a party?

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said it is not a good idea because we are wasting money on other things.

Councilman Ott asked if Mayor Cooner was going to have a party for the workers.

Mayor Cooner said yes

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said he is sad to see what is happening to our Town with personal agendas and that it would be nice if more people would take more on.

Councilwoman Harmon said that during Raylrode Daze someone gave the Town money what was that for?

Mayor Cooner said that a lady gave the Museum 350.00 she did not give it to the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said he had something on the Administrative Office, he said we all have a responsibility and he read the Election protest 1 thru 11

Councilwoman Bryant asked if Georgianna Harmon wrote all that or did Vickers?

Councilwoman Harmon said Georgianna Harmon did.

Councilwoman Bryant asked if it was being written during and while people were voting, Councilwoman Harmon replied, during.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that Council needs to be involved in electing the Commission and that he would like to recommend someone to serve on the Commission. I nominate Mrs. Betty Blaylock will you except?

Mrs. Betty Blaylock accepted temporally. Mayor Pro Tem Miller said you can resign at any time.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion

Councilwoman Harmon seconded

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that Town Administrator is more than just sitting in the middle of Council with a suit on. That concludes what I have to say.  
Mrs. Blaylock asked if she will receive training and Mayor Pro Tem Miller said yes.

Councilwoman Harmon said she would like to speak about the Election and Gidget Vickers to help her explain. There was much discussion on this matter.

Mayor Cooner read the letter that Attorney Bob McCurry wrote to the Justice Dept. And he also said that he has been on the phone with the Justice Dept. and according to them he feels like we are ok with the mis print on the Ordinance for staggered terms. He also said that what aggravates him is that there was a protest.

Mayor Pro tem Miller stated that we need to have an address for the Election, Councilwoman Harmon said that prior to 2007 that the Election Notice said the Election was to be held in Town Hall but that we held the Elections in the Community Center Mayor Cooner replied you are wrong Miss Harmon, the Town Elections have always been held at Council Chambers in Town Hall. We have never had an Election in the Community Center up until this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said you all know as well as I do that we do not have a Town Hall.

Councilwoman Harmon said the 2009 Election Notice did say Town Hall and if we had our act together we would have checked all Ordinance's.

Mayor Cooner said let's let them have it in the maintenance building just let it ride, that's where we get our mail.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked what does this letter you just passed out mean?

Mayor Cooner said we have people saying it's ok and that we won't have to have an Election for all Councilmen.

The Justice Dept. told Bob Mc Curry and myself that the typo in the Ordinance should not make all of Council be up for Election

Mayor Cooner said that Gary Baum told him No one can order an Election except the Town Council.

There was much more discussion on the Election and the center point of Town.

Mayor Cooner said we will be getting a letter from the Justice Dept. saying we will not have to have a new Election and that we have never had this kind of trouble with an Election before.

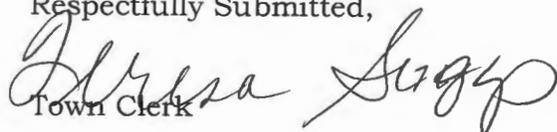
Mayor Cooner asked if there was a motion to adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion

Councilman Chris Ott seconded the motion

Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Town Clerk