

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES
FOR
MAY 3, 2010

Presiding Mayor Timothy Cooner

Council Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller
Councilwoman Benita Gibbs
Councilman Tom Jennings
Councilman Charles Dukes
Councilwoman Amy Bryant

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

The Mayor then welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that he needed to add to the Agenda that Council will have Executive Session tonight

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the April 5th meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the motion to approve the Minutes

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion

Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner then welcomed Mr. Harvey Mathis from the Municipal Association to explain our employee health insurance and the increases that will be taking place on June 1, 2010

Mr. Mathis handed out the proposed plan options to all Council and stated that there will be a 21% increase next year

Mayor Pro Tem Miller spoke about the difference in the deductible between Med 350 which is what the Town has now vs. the Med 1000 which is a higher deductible he suggested that maybe the Town consider that plan He asked Mr. Mathis when we would need to have an answer on this and Mr. Mathis said by June 1, 2010

Mr. Mathis then said that if an employee wanted to pay a higher premium they could do so on their own, thus receiving more benefits

Mayor Cooner stated that it costs the Town 6000.00 per year per employee for the plan that we have now

Mr. Mathis said that many Municipalities are charging each employee some of the cost now

He also said that health insurance has become unaffordable

There was more discussion from Mayor and Council on this matter

Mayor Cooner then stated that he appreciates Mr. Mathis coming and explaining all of this to Council and said that we will have to think on this and get back with him

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items

Public Comments on Other Matters

Mrs. Carolyn Campbell said that it is so good to see the Mayor and Council in such a good mood tonight

Mayor Cooner then addressed the Town's Financial Report, he stated that this is his program that did not cost the Town of Branchville—20,000.00

He told Council he would like to help them understand this report as he went over all Financial Companies and line items

Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked questions about the Rescue Squad

Mayor Cooner read the letter from the Rescue Squad to the Town requesting the cancellation of vehicle insurance for all of the Squads vehicles

Mayor Cooner stated that the Rescue Squad is running Municipal tags on all their vehicles, the State Budget and Control says that is not legal to do and that those tags must be turned back in to the Town and I need authorization from Council to sign off on those tags as the Town of Branchville, we must collect those tags. He then said that we are the only Town in Orangeburg County that still has their own Rescue Squad. The rescue Squad is just like the Fire Dept. we have nothing to do with them

I think our insurance is extremely high and they felt like they could get it cheaper somewhere else

Mayor Cooner referred to the last Council meeting saying that he had heard rumors that the Town owes the Rescue Squad money from tornado damage

He then read the letter from Lori Salley our auditor and stated that he has called the State Budget and Control Board about this matter and that he has the invoice for aprox. 22,000.00 for AC units etc. that the Town spent on the Maintenance building damages. The Maintenance building as such was not listed on the policy but the Rescue Squad was, and there was no damage to the Rescue Squad building but they felt like they were entitled to that 22,000.00.

I then asked the Insurance Co what they suggested we do and they said that it was up to the Town of Branchville

Councilman Charles Dukes asked if we own the building now and Mayor Cooner said yes.

Mayor Cooner said " All I can say is that the Maintenance building was not listed on the insurance policy but that the Rescue Squad was"

And the best thing for the town to do is wash our hands of it all, it was one of those things that was just going to get worse and worse, it is a done deal now so let's put it to bed

Councilman Tom Jennings asked if the Rescue Squad was paying premiums On that building

Mayor Cooner replied that he had not done an audit to see if they were or not Mayor Cooner said he is not happy with this at all but let's just let it go, they need the money and we need an ambulance service, let's just chalk it up that the Town did what was right and move on

Mayor Pro Tem Miller suggested that after tonight the Rescue Squad building be re-named

Mayor Cooner said ok

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs stated that we must think of the liability at the old Elementary School, if something happens over there we must find out if we will be held responsible

Mayor Cooner then said we need to go back to the Financial Report and speed things up

He reviewed all companies with Council and stated that this is what you will receive every month

Mayor Cooner said that this is the best Financial Report we have had in 5 years, I feel like the Town has been crucified for the last 4 years and any time you need to know something all you have to do is come to Town Hall and ask to see it on the computer, we have two ladies that work together now, Myra and Teresa

Mayor Cooner then thanked the Town Clerk for sticking by him for this last year

Mayor Cooner then made the motion to pass the Financial Report

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the motion

Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner stated that the Police Department is doing a very good job; he said that it was reported there were a lot of break-ins out on 61 last week

In the Public Works Department the Mayor said that the flow testing is finished on the whole water system and that there is a need to hire another employee, he said he would like to hire two people ,possibly high school boys to paint all the fire hydrants but in addition we also need to hire a full time employee we really have a lot to do

Mayor Cooner asked Council to approve the hire of a couple more employees
Councilman Charles Dukes made the Motion to approve
Mayor Pro Tem Miller seconded the motion
Motion Carried

No Old Business

Mayor Cooner said we are fixing to get the ball rolling, Councilwoman Bryant, I would like for you to come up with a nice design for a sign up at Horton Field And can you give us a report on that at the next meeting? And who would like to follow up on the Town signs? Amy will you?
Councilwoman Bryant said yes she would do that

Mayor Cooner said that the Municipal Association will hold their meeting in Charleston this July, and if anyone is interested in going just get with me for the details

Progress Report on Capital Projects

The Mayor said he is still working on the chlorination out at Cattle Creek

Mayor Cooner stated that tonight we have had a wonderful meeting, does anyone have anything they want done?

Mayor Cooner said that the Town owns Branch Junction except for one little building and the committee had asked if we could put them on our insurance policy, Raylrode Daze would pay the premiums they just want to be under our policy

Tom if you will get with Teresa and see when we can put this together

Phyllis Overstreet asked about the asbestos testing at the campground
Mayor Cooner read his email from Jim Lockridge at Safety Professionals
He said that they will be finished soon and hopefully the tests won't reveal any asbestos it costs the Town 2500.00 for asbestos testing on the ball field

Mayor Cooner made the motion to adjourn for Executive Session of a Contractual Matter

Councilman Charles Dukes seconded the motion

Motion Carried

After the Executive Session,
Councilman Charles Dukes made the motion to adjourn
Mayor Pro Tem Miller Seconded the motion
Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Suggs/Town Clerk