

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 7, 2012

PRESIDING: MAYOR TIMOTHY COONER

Mayor Cooner called the meeting to order and ask that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

Mayor Cooner then welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave Roll Call for Council with all Council present

Mayor Cooner then asked the pleasure of Council for the approval of the Minutes

Councilman Chris Ott made the Motion to approve  
Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the Motion  
Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner then said that he would like to skip around on the Agenda if it was ok with Council

Mayor Cooner asked if there were any Public Comments on Agenda Items and since there were none he asked if there were any Public Comments of Other Matters and if so please state your comment in a nice manner

Mrs. Trina Herndon spoke to Council about issues with Branchville Youth Sports her concerns with the bathrooms and the sports equipment she also stated that the canteen has not been inspected by DHEC and wanted to know how the board members are chosen

Mayor Cooner told her that these questions will be answered tonight and that he appreciated the comments from Mrs. Herndon

Mr. Michael Blankenship spoke in behalf of Branchville Youth Sports he said that he had tried to talk to Mrs. Herndon one night at the ball field and that he had even tried to call her husband

Mayor Cooner said that he wants to say something and he doesn't want anyone's feelings hurt he stated that he has tried to come up with a solution for this problem

Mayor Cooner stated that out of the penny tax monies 250,000.00 has been ear marked for a new Sports Facility and that money should come to us in the fall of 2013

He said that we have identified some properties 2 or 3 years ago and that 250,000.00 will not get us a whole lot

We are looking for a Complex that will house all sports and we need a nice Playground Facility also

We will apply for a Grant for the Playground and whatever I can get we will get it

Mayor Cooner asked if there were any questions at this time

Mrs. Herndon said that she didn't want anyone to be treated unfairly

Mayor Cooner gave much discussion on Branchville Youth Sports and said that he took about 6 hours last week and has come up with a set of bylaws and that Councilman Tom Jennings will read them out loud now and if you have any questions or concerns please write them down and turn them into the Clerk by May 30

Mayor Cooner said that he would like for everyone to just sit back and let Councilman Jennings read the bylaws and after they are read I will ask Council for the First Reading on these bylaws and we will be having a Public Hearing sometime next month

Mayor Cooner asked Councilman Tom Jennings to please read the bylaws

Councilman Tom Jennings then read the bylaws to Council

Mayor Cooner then stated that he knows some things need to be changed and that this has given everyone something to think about and if you have any questions to please have them into Town Hall by May the 30<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Cooner then asked Council for the First Reading on these bylaws

Councilman Tom Jennings made the Motion

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the Motion

Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner then asked for a 5 minute recess

After the recess Mayor Cooner called the meeting back to order and asked the Pleasure of Council for the Approval of the Financial Report

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs made the Motion for Approval

Councilman Tom Jennings seconded the Motion

Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner said that the Police Department is doing a good job Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked what percent of the Town's business's have paid their business licenses and Mayor Cooner replied that 22 have paid so far

Mayor Cooner then said that since the economy is so bad that people are having a hard time paying their licenses and he feels it would be a good thing to give them a onetime 25% reduction on the first million he also said that he is not happy with the dates on the licenses and that the Town gets an IRS Gross Income Statement that runs from January 1 thru December 31 and that's how I would like to see our licenses run and we could allow until February 15<sup>th</sup> to purchase the licenses also if the IRS report does not match what the Merchant has paid we will issue a letter stating the Merchant owes more money

Mayor Cooner said that Council does not have to act on this tonight but please think on it and we can change it in the Ordinance he said he would like to base it on the previous calendar year he also said that he is concerned about our Merchants and feels that this will let them know we are concerned he stated that this is the toughest he has ever seen it financially in all his years of being Mayor and that we have to look out for the best interest for our Merchants and the people of Branchville

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs asked the Mayor if this 25% reduction was just for one time and Mayor Cooner said yes

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs then made the Motion in favor of the reduction

Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the Motion

Motion Carried

Mayor Cooner said to let the record show that there are 5 in favor and Mayor Pro Tem Miller opposed

Mayor Cooner said that Council will discuss and vote at another meeting about changing the dates on the Business Licenses

Mayor Cooner then read Maxwell Construction's proposal for the trim and hanging of the doors in the new Town Hall and bids for the sheet rock work Mayor Cooner said he thought Excell was a good bid for sheet rock and all Council agreed he then said that we will be sound proofing the Court Room and the bathrooms

Mayor Cooner then said that he would like to discuss what is going on at Lockett gym and that someone has broken the door knobs also that the electrician put in new wiring on Wed. of last week and it was stolen out of the building that same night so Ronnie Maxwell went to Lowes and purchased new barrel locks for the doors Mayor Cooner then said that Captain Hewitt had spent the night in the Gym on Friday night trying to catch them

Mayor Pro Tem Miller said that the Community needs to get involved and that maybe we need to have a block party for this Community

Mayor Cooner said that he feels the 75,000.00 that the Town has spent on the Gym is enough for now and that we need to hold off for about a year

Mayor Cooner said that there is one more thing we need to discuss and that is 911 addressing he said he would like to see this as an Amendment to the Town Ordinance and all Council agreed

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made the Motion

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded

Motion Carried

Councilman Chris Ott made the Motion to Adjourn

Councilwoman Benita Gibbs seconded the Motion

Motion Carried and Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Suggs/Town Clerk