

Town of Branchville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2014

The regular Town of Branchville Council Meeting was held on March 10, 2014 at 6pm at the Town Hall. A notice was placed on the door of the Town Hall with the time, date, and place of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Glenn Miller. Mayor, Council, along with those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Mayor Miller asked to have the Public Hearing (Needs Assessment/ Citizens Participation Plan) moved to after Todd Shafer. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings made the motion to have the public hearing after Todd Shafer. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Miller asked if public comments could be moved to after Items for Information. Councilman Sam Whisenhunt made the motion to move Public Comments after Items for Information. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Roll call indicated that all council members were present.

Mayor Glenn Miller welcomed the guest.

**Minutes:** Councilman Chris Ott said he attended the special work session on February 17, 2014 but the minute stated he was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Jennings made the motion to approve the February's minutes with the correction being made. Councilwoman Amy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Councilman Whisenhunt questioned why there were two deposits for the Healthplex. The town clerk, Jenny Elliott, said two deposits were made because the Healthplex had reimbursed a check that had not been deposited from 2012. Councilman Whisenhunt questioned the school bonds and loan payment coming out of O&M. Mayor Miller said he will have the town's auditor, Ms. Lori Salley, explain it to council. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial report. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**TODD SHAFER:** Mr. Todd Shafer from WTH Technology showed council a presentation during the presentation he explained that WTH Technology has software that will help the Town find water and sewer lines. It will also help find man holes. The software will be able to save work that has been done to the water and sewer lines. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if penny money could be used. Mayor Miller said he that would find out if the town had penny money and would get in contact with Mr. Shafer.

**Public Hearing(Needs Assessment/Citizens Participation Plan):** Ethan Beeks from Metts Engineering said that the Department of Commerce with the State of South Carolina establish grant programs for different projects. Mr. Beeks said to apply for these grants you need a Citizens Participation Program and a Needs Assessment. Councilman Oliver made a motion to have the Needs Assessment/ Citizens Participation Plan on March 19, 2014. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Old Business:** Councilman Whisenhunt said that the playground committee met on February 26, 2014. Ms. Brandi Boan was elected as the president and Ms. Audrey Cook as secretary. Councilman Whisenhunt said the playground committee would like to see the playgrounds clean and grass cut. Councilman Whisenhunt said the playground committee would like the hole filled in on the Horton Field playground. Mayor Miller said he would put that on his to do list. Councilman Whisenhunt said the playground committee would like to get signs for the playgrounds and a swing for the playground on Horton field. Councilman Whisenhunt said the playground committee would like to look into grants for the playground. Mayor Miller said there is some money for the playgrounds he said to get a price and take it from there. Mayor Miller also said to look into the grants for the playgrounds. Councilman Whisenhunt asked about bathrooms for Horton Field playground. Councilman Blankenship said bathrooms at Horton Field are kept up by the volunteers of Branchville Youth Sports. Councilman Blankenship said \$25,000.00 was spent three years ago for bathrooms at Horton Field but if they are left unlocked they will be torn up. Councilman Whisenhunt said the town needs to seek volunteers to open and close the bathrooms.

Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to have the spray park open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Gregory Oliver said he went to an emergency plan meeting. Councilman Oliver said the town needs an emergency plan for emergencies such as chemical spills or tornado warning. Councilman Oliver suggested the town buy a siren to warn the citizens. Councilman Oliver said he would find out how much a siren would cost and how much it would cost to install.

Councilman Ott said the lights on Butts Road would cost \$973.00 for six poles and two lights. Councilman Ott said it would have a monthly fee of 11.02 per light. Mayor Miller how much it would cost for the tree trimming that would have to be done. Councilman Ott said he did not have the price for tree trimming. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to leave lights on Buttes Road tabled. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Ott said he would like to turn the lights on Buttes Road to someone else. Councilman Ott made the motion to put a light on Logan Street providing it is only \$11.02 per month. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Whisenhunt made motion to have a work session for the town ordinances on March 24 at 7:00pm. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Whisenhunt said he did not receive the information for the Farmer Market from the Town.

Councilman Blankenship said he did not have any new information on the four way stop sign for Ott St but he would like to leave it on the agenda.

Councilman Whisenhunt asked if the town had satisfied Richard Wimberly's request. Mayor Miller said yes. Mayor Miller said Richard Wimberly would have to tie in to town sewage.

**New Business:** Councilman Whisenhunt said he was pleased with the turn out for the meeting on March 3, 2014 but he was very disappointed with the way it was conducted. He felt Ms. Guerrero was bullied and there should have been order.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to have council meeting twice a month. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings seconded the motion. Councilman Whisenhunt and Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings yay. Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Ott, Councilman Oliver, and Councilman Blankenship nay. The motion did not carry.

Councilman Blankenship said Horton Field's sign had been repainted by Gidget Vickers and that it should be up this week. Councilman Blankenship asked why Horton Field only had one trash can. Mayor Miller said he had taken three there. Councilman Blankenship said there is only one there. Mayor Miller said he would take two more to Horton Field. Councilman Blankenship asked if Horton Field could be mowed every week this year. Mayor Miller said if the town has the manpower the grass will be cut. Councilwoman Bryant made the motion to hire a seasonal grass cutter. Councilman Ott seconded the motion.

Councilman Blankenship said the Branchville Police Department does a good job monitoring Horton Field during games.

Councilman Ott said the old elementary school is hazardous and something needs to be done before someone gets hurt. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to demolish the old elementary school but to keep the gym. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings, Councilman Whisenhunt, Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Ott, and Councilman Blankenship yay. Councilman Oliver nay. The motion carried.

**Progress Report/ Capital Improvements:** Mayor Miller said if the town wanted a Dollar General Market one could be put in the old industrial park. Mayor Miller said he thought it would be a great asset to the town. Councilman Whisenhunt asked if the town had zoning. Mayor Miller said no. Councilman Oliver said a Dollar General Market would create more jobs and convenience for the town.

**Items for Information:** Councilman Whisenhunt asked about the progress on the Hunting Road project. Mayor Miller said they are still working on it and it should be finished in about two weeks.

Mayor Miller said the state continues to pick up debris from the storm.

Councilman Whisenhunt asked for a progress report on radio reads. Mayor Miller said we are still putting them in.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Linda West asked if there were any railroad funds that could be used to purchase the siren. Mayor Miller said he didn't think it was that if there were it would be used for the railroad.

Mr. Betty Glover thanked Mayor Miller, Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings, Councilman Oliver, and Councilman Whisenhunt for moving the tree that blocked Logan St during the ice storm.

Mr. Shirley Crosby wanted to know how much it would cost to have water on Hunting Rd. Mayor Miller said he would have that information ready at a later date.

Ms. Gladys Murray asked who was responsible for cleaning up the trees in the playground. Mayor Miller said when the maintenance workers are able they will clean up the tree. Ms. Murray said there is a problem with people speeding by the playground and wanted to know if the town could have speed bumps around the playground. Mayor Miller said they could not have speed bumps on state roads but the Police Department could write more tickets. Ms. Murray said she did think that the town needed more workers.

Ms. Pamela Jones said she thinks Council should vote to have a Dollar General Market.

Mr. Charlie Byrd said Council should vote to have more workers. He said the town cannot run with only two workers.

Mr. Larry Owens said he thought the town should keep the kitchen and the gym on the old elementary school. Mr. Owens said the kitchen and the gym could continue to be used.

Mr. Charles Bamberg asked what happen to the Farmers Market. He said the town has many farmers that could bring their vegetables to sell. Mr. Bamberg said if someone needed to be hired to cut grass then the town should hire a seasonal worker.

Mr. Darrell White said that council should get together before council meeting and discuss what they are going to talk about before the meeting so that it looks better. Mr. White said that during council meeting council bring it up then it's up for debate. Mayor Miller said that council knew what they were supposed to do and they were doing their job. Mr. White asked when the limbs would be picked up from his yard. He also asked if the town has someone to supervise the maintenance workers. Mayor Miller said that he supervised the workers.

Ms. Beverly Berry said she would like for council to speak into the microphones so they could be heard.

Ms. Luvenia Williams asked what was going to happen with the Farmer's Market. Councilman Whisenhunt said his goal is to get a Farmer's Market this year but it would have to be at a temporary location. Ms. Williams wanted to know why the Farmer's Market could not start at the Old Freight Depot. Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings said that it was because on building codes and regulations.

Mr. Reggie Bruce asked if the Farmer's Market was going to bring income that could help fight crime. Mayor Miller said that the Farmer's Market was not for income, it's for convenience.

Mr. Reggie Bruce said that the town should find a beneficial way to keep the old elementary school. Mr. Bruce said he didn't see why the town would destroy a building that is still in good shape. Council said that the school is not in good shape and it would take millions to fix it. Councilwoman Bryant asked if the town could form a committee for the old elementary school. Mayor Miller asked Mr. Bruce to bring eight people to the next council meeting to form a committee.

Councilman Oliver said in response to Mr. White saying that council should come together before a meeting and discuss what they are going to talk about that would be illegal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jennings said to the comments that the town needs to hire more workers and to fix different things around town, the town receives money by taxes and grants. The main source of revenue for the town is taxes. Mayor Pro-Tem said the taxes are high enough.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Elliott  
Town Clerk