The Town of Brunson met in a regular monthly Council meeting on Wednesday, January 04, 2012. All Council members were present along with Mayor Wright.

Invocation was led by Mayor Wright and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mayor and Council. Councilmember Smart made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilmember Hudson seconding. Motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Wright welcomed all visitors and opened the floor to any questions, comments, or discussions.

Mr. Chris Haulsee took the floor to discuss the one cents sales tax referendum which would be on the elections ballet this year. He said that because the laws had changed, it could only be put on a General Elections ballet. Mr. Haulsee told Mayor and Council that the Capital Sales Tax Commission consisted of 6 individuals, Mr. Chad Wetendorf, Mr. Steve Kemmerlin, Ms. Darainey Hudson, Mr. JJ Orr, Mr. Mark Cooper, and Ms. Debra Holmes. He said that a chairperson would be announced Monday at Hampton County’s meeting. There will be three public forum meetings held. Meetings are scheduled for January 23rd in Hampton, January 26th in Estill, and January 30th in Yemassee. Mr. Haulsee asked the Council to help put out the word about these meetings. He said that they would also be announced on the radio and listed in the paper and on the website as well. He said that he didn’t know what the projects would be this time and that they needed input from the public as well as the Mayor’s and Council members. Councilmember Smart asked if schools would be included. Mr. Haulsee said he did not think so and that schools would be under State and Federal funding. The one cents sales tax will be for 7 years or until the estimated amount to be received has been reached.

Mr. Bobby Sullivan asked if the Regional Water System would be taking over the town’s system and if they would be controlling the charges for the citizens. Mayor Wright told him that they would. Mr. Sullivan then asked Chief Bellinger about a couple of individuals that have been harassing people at the post office and at the store. Mayor Wright told him that it had been addressed. Mr. Sullivan said that one of them jumped at his wife and that they needed to be stopped. Chief Bellinger told him that neither of these individuals had broken the law and that there was not much more that he could do unless they did. Mr. Sullivan then told Mayor and Council that he had someone interested in opening the restaurant again. Mayor Wright said that he would love to see the restaurant opened again and that he and the Council would be willing to hold a special meeting to approve this so that this individual didn’t have to wait until the next Council meeting. Mr. Sullivan said that she was thinking about a seafood and barbeque restaurant and that she would be open Wednesday thru Sunday.

Ms. Sylvia Murdaugh asked about beautifying Brunson. She said that her a few others wanted to work on some projects. The Decorating Committee has planned to meet here on January 10th at 7pm. Ms. Murdaugh asked Mayor Wright if he knew where the star was that used to hang in Brunson at Christmas time. He told her that he wasn’t sure where it was but that now you are required to get a permit to hang anything across roads.

Mayor and Council read and reviewed a Flood Ordinance. Mayor Wright said that the Ordinance was basically the same as before and that only a few changes had been made. Hampton County through its Building Department and Mr. Randy Crews will administer the ordinance. This means that if FEMA has to come in, Hampton County and Mr. Crews will handle it for us. Councilmember Hudson made a motion to accept and approve the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Smart seconded. Motion was then carried and approved.

The Police report was given by Chief Bellinger. He said that the department had 7 cases for the month. He told Mayor and Council that the Sheriff’s Department has been writing some tickets for us.

The Mayor’s report included the following:

The Legislative Day will be held in Columbia on February 15, 2012. Reservations will need to be made.

Mayor Wright reminded Council of the retreat that was scheduled for January 21, 2012.

The MLK parade will be held on January 15th. Mayor Wright plans to attend

The Chamber of Commerce Annual meeting will be held at Lake Warren on January 19, 2012 at 6:30pm. Reservations need to be made by January 16th.

The financial report was reviewed by Mayor and Council. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the financial report. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

There was no other business at hand.

Councilmember Smart made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Hudson seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was then adjourned at 7:22pm.