The Town of Brunson met in a regular Council meeting on Wednesday, March 07, 2012. All Council members were present along with Mayor Wright.

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

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

The first reading of the budget for 2012-2013 needed to be reviewed by Mayor and Council. Councilmember Smart made a motion to add the 1st Reading of the Budget to the agenda. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. The First Reading of the Budget was added to the agenda.

Mayor Wright said that the town was trying to seek a grant for the needed repair and an upgrade of the water tank and that one of the requirements prior to applying was to hold a Needs Assessment meeting. He then turned the floor over to Ms. Barbara Johnson of LowCountry COG. Ms. Johnson began by reading a Policy of Non-Discrimination by the LowCountry COG. She then said that SC Department of Commerce administers CDBG funds from HUD and that units of Local Government are required to have a current Needs Assessment meeting when applying for CDBG funds. She presented Mayor and Council with copies of the projects that can be addressed with this year’s funding along with a description of what each project would cover, the amount of local matching funds, and deadlines for request and applications. She asked Mayor and Council to list the needs of the town according to the most needed. Mayor Wright said that the first need would be the repairs on the water tower. The second priority would be a lift station on the North side of town. The third priority would be to upgrade the water lines on the South East and South West side of town in the R12 area. The fourth priority would be for Neighborhood Revitalization with the area to be determined. The fifth priority would be to rehab or demolish the Old Allen School. Councilmember Hudson asked Ms. Johnson if the Village Renaissance project was for beautification of the town. She explained that with the Village Renaissance, it would have to be in the same area and be connected or side by side. She said that all of the projects must meet a National objective and must benefit at least 51% LMI households. Each project should involve a 3 phased program. Phase 1 requires a comprehensive revitalization plan. Phase 2 & 3 involves the activities, infrastructure, public facilities, housing, demolition, clearance, and public services.

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

Jake Sullivan took the floor to ask permission to bring a mobile home into the town. Mayor Wright stated that he had received some pictures from Jake earlier but that the mobile home appeared to have a few issues that needed to be repaired. He said that the mobile home appeared to have a window out and part of the installation hanging out from underneath. Mr. Sullivan stated that the mobile home was going to be placed in an existing location at William Veach Drive where another mobile home used to be. The mobile home is a 1995 Redman and is 14x70 with three bedrooms and 2 baths. Mr. Sullivan said that he planned to move it in, pressure wash it, replace the windows and door, put a sealer on the top of the home, and possibly repaint it. Councilmember Hudson made a motion to approve and grant permission to Mr. Sullivan to bring the mobile home into the town. Councilmember Smart seconded. Motion was then carried and approved.

Mr. Bobby Sullivan thanked the Mayor and Council for holding a special meeting and approving the opening of the restaurant.

Ms. Rebecca Johnson was here to request permission for her mom, Ms. Ethel Johnson, to have a mobile home to be brought into the town as well. This mobile home would be placed at 60 Lightsey Street. It is a 1996 Fleetwood and is 24x56 in size. Pictures of the mobile home were provided to the town via email. Councilmember Hudson made a motion to approve and grant permission to Ms. Ethel Johnson to bring the mobile home into the town and place it at 60 Lightsey Street. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

Ms. Sylvia Murdaugh discussed the plans of the Decorating Committee saying that they were going to ask for donations to try to get more Christmas lights for Main and Manker Streets. She said that the Committee planned to advertise in the paper and send out letters as well. One of the decorations that they were looking at has Merry Christmas wrote out with a candle on each side. The company that they are looking at purchasing from is Display Sales. A picture of the lights will be displayed at the town hall. Ms. Murdaugh told Mayor and Council that the Committee would appreciate anything that they could do.

Mayor and Council then read and reviewed the Flood Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson made a motion to accept the third reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

The Police report was given by Chief Bellinger. He said that the department had 3 cases for the month. One of those cases was harassment and one was disturbance.

The Mayors report included the following:

Mayor Wright, Councilmember Smart, and Councilmember Williams attended the Legislative Day in Columbia.

Lowcountry COG and Mayor Wright spent two days out in the community attempting to get the income surveys filled out for the town. This has to be done prior to applying for a grant for the repairs needed on the water tank.

Mayor Wright attended the 800 Talk Group Meeting at the Emergency Services Building in Hampton.

The Lowcountry Regional Water Authority meeting was held on February 29, 2012. Mayor Wright attended. The BY-Laws were passed and the Officers of the Commission were elected.

Mayor Wright met with DHEC concerning the town’s discharge permit. These permits have to be updated every 3 to 5 years. The town challenged this in the past and will now need to have the Engineer to come in and write this for us again.

This year, the Watermelon Festival will be “Honoring the Korean War Veterans.” The town received a letter asking for their participation by placing an ad in this year’s book. The ¼ page ad will cost $75.00. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept and place the ¼ page ad in the book. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. The town will place the advertisement for Miss Brunson in the Guardian and will also send it to the radio stations to be announced.

Councilmember Smart offered her condolences to Larry Marchyshyn in the loss of his nephew.

Councilmember Preston said that he was asked by some of the lady’s that walk throughout the neighborhood if the town could get more lights between Mr. Freeman’s house and Mr. Crosby’s house on North Railroad. Mayor Wright said that he would look into it.

Mayor and Council reviewed the budget for the year of 2012-2013. Mayor Wright said that the town would be taking a 20% cut in the Aid to Subdivisions. He said that he would also like to increase the expenses for membership dues and annual dues so that the town could become a member of the National League of Cities. The National League can help people with different things including sewer problems from the house to the tap. The expenses for Tax Notices will also need to be increased because the town has to account for and track the expenses paid to Hampton County for all tax notices that they send and collect. The expenses for Chemicals will need to be increased as well as the town needs to do something with the growth in the sewer pond. Mayor Wright suggested that Council have a Saturday morning workshop to work on the budget. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the first reading of the budget. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. No date was set for the workshop.

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

There was no other business at hand.

Councilmember Smart made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion was carried and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.