The Town of Brunson met in a regular monthly Council meeting on Wednesday, May 02, 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 from the last meeting were read by Mayor and Council. Councilmember Hudson noted that on page 2, paragraph 1, the name Rusty Bullard should be changed to Russ Bullard instead. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the minutes with this change being made. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Wright then welcomed all visitors present. He introduced Ms. Murdaugh, Chairperson of the Hampton County School Board. Ms. Murdaugh came in to give some information about the School Board. She said that Hampton County Schools had received recognition as a “Red Carpet” school for their welcome attitude and that the District had also been recognized as a “Gold & Silver” as well as a “Showcase” school. As a Showcase school, she said that other schools would visit and take notes and then take the information back to their schools for learning or improving. She said that Brunson Elementary was the first school to become a TAPS school. Ms. Murdaugh thanked the town for their continued support of the schools and offered their support to the town when needed.

Mr. Fennell took the floor to ask the Mayor and Council for their support for him as he will be running for a seat on the County Council. He told Mayor and Council that he had been a Magistrate for 4-6 year’s he was on the Planning Commission, and the Elections Commission. He said that he has business experience and that he felt that he would be able to talk to the people and make things happen. Mr. Fennell said that you have to be able to work together and talk in order to make things work. He asked He ask the Mayor and Council to help him to get a word out there about him.

Mr. and Mrs. Rota spoke to the Mayor and Council about starting up a new and separate business in Brunson. Mr. Rota began by saying that businesses need tents and that he had been disappointed in the China made tents that he had found. He said that he searched and found a company in Europe that has tents, canopies, and pop-up tents and that they would like to sell to the USA. He said that they are top quality tents developed in Germany. Mr. Rota said that their plan is to start with a small amount of these tents and they will have a few of them set up on their privately fenced yard to serve as a show of the product. The company will ship the tents to Savannah and they will pick them up from there. Mr. & Mrs. Rota have not decided on a name for the business yet. Councilmember Hudson offered a motion to grant Mr. & Mrs. Rota permission to obtain a business license for the operation of the business. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

Mayor and Council read an Ordinance to Transfer the Town’s Water & Sewer System to the Lowcountry Regional Water System. It was noted that the Ordinance had some changes to be made to it with one being to include Gifford. The Ordinance was read by Mayor Wright. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the first reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. The second reading will be held in the June Council meeting and the Public Hearing and third reading will be scheduled for July.

Mayor and Council then read a renewal contract from the Post Office. The Postal Service is currently paying $440 per month. The amount to be collected for rent according to the new contract will be the same. Councilmember Hudson made a motion to accept the contract as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried and approved.

There was no Police report for the month.

The Mayor’s report included the following:

Mayor Wright attended the Association of South Carolina Mayors meeting as well as the Advisory Board meeting.

Mayor Wright met with the Decorating Committee. The Committee has sent out flyers asking for donations for new Christmas decorations.

Mayor Wright and Councilmember Smart attended the quarterly Chamber meeting at Lake Warren.

This year’s Miss Brunson will be Ms. Carrie Bess Bishop.

The town will rent a float for the Watermelon Festival parade.

The town is looking at a special package deal that is being offered by Frontier. Mayor Wright told Council that the package would include high speed internet, call waiting, caller id, and more. It will cost $79.00 per month and will be guaranteed for three years. We will also receive a $500 visa card to use as we want to. Councilmember Smart made a motion to change services from Comcast to Frontier. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

The town has registered for the annual MASC meeting to be held in Hilton Head. The meeting will be June 28th-July 1st .

Councilman Hudson said that he had attended his first meeting for the LRWS. He said that both Hampton and Varnville will be loaning $125,000 for the start up cost for the system. He said that he would like to have Attorney Brown look at the town’s funds to see if they could be used in the same way. Attorney Brown asked where the funds came from. Mayor Wright said that the funds were in CD’s through the Water & Sewer account. Councilman Hudson said that the LRWS could collect the Police Protection and garbage fees for the town as well.

Mr. Carl Williams reported that the water system is going good other than the little things here and there. He said that he is concerned about what is going to happen to the employee’s jobs once the Regional Water takes over.

The financial report was reviewed by Mayor and Council. Mayor Wright noted that the report did not show the gas charges for the month because the town received the bill late. He also noted that the revenues from the State were received late as well. Councilmember Hudson asked about the equipment purchase in the Water & Sewer account. Mayor Wright told Council that the town had some problems with its pumps and that because of the repairs needed and the cost, it was best to purchase a new pump instead.

Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the financial report. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

Mayor and Council then reviewed the budget for 2012-2013. Mayor Wright noted that there were no employees raises included in the budget. Councilmember Smart made a motion to accept the second reading of the budget. Councilmember Hudson seconded.

Councilmember Smart made a motion to go into Executive Sessions to discuss employee matters. All were in favor. Mayor and Council discussed the employee’s earning of sick leave and carrying over hours to the next year. They then discussed bringing someone in to cover for the Clerk when she is out on vacation or sick time. No decisions were made, no votes were taken. Councilmember Smart made a motion to come out of Executive Sessions. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. Mayor and Council then returned to their Regular Sessions.

Councilmember Hudson made a motion to hire Ms. Lynda Jarrell to fill in for the Clerk when she is out. Councilmember Preston seconded. Motion was carried and approved.

There was no other business at hand.

Councilmember Smart made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Hudson seconded. Motion was carried and approved. Meeting was then adjourned at 7:45pm.