Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday May 14, 2018

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the front door of the Town Hall at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Mayor Dickson called the meeting to order. Council, along with all those present, stood for the

Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer.

Roll called indicated that Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Ott, Councilman Dukes, Councilman Oliver and Councilman Connelly were all present. Councilman Banks was also present, but came in late.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed the guests.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the April 9, 2018 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Connelly made the motion to approve the General Fund

Financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Oliver second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports:

No reports at this time.

1. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Ott reports:

We have replaced 3 Fire Hydrants that had been damaged due to accidents, and all claims have been filed for reimbursement of those monies with the different companies. He also states that he is trying to get a PARD Grant for Horton Field. Would like to make Horton Filed a soccer field and will inform as that progressed. Also would like to inform you that George, one of our maintenance workers, cut his leg while trimming hedges. He had six stiches placed on Friday and is doing fine and back to work.

Mayor Dickson informed the council that he had spoken with Councilman Harry Wimberly about water extension at Shopan Court. We had a group whom wanted that area included for water. Mayor Dickson states that Mr. Wimberly said that after they finished with the Classic Road extension they will see what they have left and will try to see how they can be of help with Shopan Court. Councilman Dukes said he had a call from Russell and Becky Felder, who also needed town water at their address. The owner is disabled and is in need. Mayor Dickson asked Councilman Dukes to please place a call to Councilman Wimberly and see if perhaps the county could help with this and to inform council of the decision.

1. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports:

Softball and baseball season is winding down. Our minor teens won their championship division. We will be hosting a District Softball Tournament at the complex. Four age groups will be playing for 5 or 6 nights. We also will host the Major District Tournament. This is really a busy time and could use any volunteers. Please let me know if you could help. The help would be greatly appreciated.

1. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Connelly reports:

Asked the council’s permission to fly the POW flag from at Town Hall during holidays that were appropriate, such as Memorial Day, July 4th, Veteran’s Day, etc. I have the flag and will put it up and take it down. Councilman Connelly made a motion to fly the POW flag. Several seconded the motion all at once, not clear who was first, motion carried.

The second thing is the vehicles and equipment. I spoke with Larry Ackerman at Family Ford, who services the maintenance trucks, he is the Service Manager there. He says that the items that need repair are due to normal wear for the mileage on these vehicles, with the exception of the mirror on the driver’s door of the F150. I feel for liability reasons we should replace the mirror and do the maintenance needed on these vehicles. Cost for the F150 is $2964.26 including the mirror and for the F250 cost is $ 1144.77 I make a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly also reports that he can find no service performed on the Caterpillar and back-hoe. I have reached out to find out what type of services need to be done on these units and I am waiting for that information.

Mayor Dickson requested that some type of logs be kept on damages to the vehicles and Councilman Connelly will follow up with logs.

1. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports:

We have several areas where limbs are hindering the view. I have spoken with George about this and he is taking care of these already which is the Palms in the Island, and some Crape Myrtles at Turn Key. The second issue is the lights on Turner Court. We have removed 2 flood lights on Hunter Street and with doing so we can add lights to Turner Court with no extra cost to the town, except there are some limbs that must be cut. I have a bid from Zac’s Tree Service for 200.00. After the limbs are cut, then SCE&G will install a pole and put up the light. Councilman Oliver made a motion to have the limbs trimmed by Zac’s Tree Service. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motioned carried.

I would also like to discuss the uniforms that the maintenance department uses. The cost of rental with no repairs or replacement is over $2293.72. I recommend that we purchase the uniforms and let them be responsible for their own cleaning. However, we are under contract with them and we have to give a 90 day notice in writing. The contract will not expire until August 2019. Mayor asked that he keep up with this and bring it back to the table in time to be able to make changes if decided upon. The cost difference would save the town money.

1. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports:

We had a good month, the officers wrote 298 violations. Chief Clark informed the council that the Crown Vic was running hot and that it was at Carolina Auto Service and that he did not think it was anything major.

**Old Business:**

1. None at this time.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson reminds everyone that we have been trying to get help with road repair and traffic lights. I have contacted Al Jenkins from Senator Scott’s office, I have also met with SC Highway Commissioner Sam Glover and the Orangeburg County Road & Bridges Director over a year ago. Council will find an email that was just given to you to Senator Graham’s Office. I am trying to get help from anybody whom can help us. I received back from that office an email from Dan Head at Senator Graham’s office, he is the Low country Regional Director for US Senator Lindsey Graham. Mr. Head also copied this email to Yvette Rowland, who is the Midlands Regional Director who covers Orangeburg County. He has attached some information for us. It is information on the FY 2018 Transportation Discretionary Grants. I have asked Clerk Connelly to send a letter to LSCOG for me to see if they could help us with this US DOT Grant. As we gather information I will keep you informed as we move forward working on the highways and traffic light issues.
2. Norris at the Eatery has contacted me and wants to host a meal for the Council and their spouses and all dignitary guests after the opening ceremonies for Raylrode Daze 50th Annual. We will be limited to how many we can ask and we are grateful for his offer. We will prepare an invitation for those invited and acknowledge a Thank you to the Eatery at Depot.
3. I also want to remind everyone that the Raylrode Daze committee is having a fish fry this Saturday, May 19th, please come and support this group.

**Public Comments Agenda:**

1. Mr. Glen Miller says for liability reasons his advice is to leave the uniform rental as is, do not switch. He also wanted to know about the road issues again. Mayor Dickson explained that as before, he has been working on this for over a year with Al Jenkins with Senator Scott’s Office, Sam Glover, and Orangeburg County; and as of yet still no help, but still working on it.

**Public Comments Other:**

1. Mr. Glen Miller reports that there is still a problem with dogs on his street. Now there is 20 grown dogs and he had to help children the other day because they were afraid of them. Just wanted it in the minutes we have a dog problem, he has called Animal Control but no assistance from them. Mayor Dickson also informed him that he had called before, Town Hall has called and Animal Control says they have no room for them.
2. Mr. Miller also asked what is wrong with the microphones, can’t hear all whom speak. Councilman Oliver said he had intended to have them checked out, however, due to everything he was involved in he had not had time, but he would do so.
3. Mr. Miller also spoke on behalf of the Concerned Citizens that they had run into a problem was still moving forward, just taking longer and that maybe they would have a report next month. Councilman Oliver, being a member also of the Concerned Citizens, said they had run into a problem with date between meat supplier and dates the committee wanted to have the market open and they were working on these issues at this time.

**Items for Information:**

1. Mayor Dickson said there was a change in price for the WWTP, it had been decreased. Councilman Ott said the decrease was because the bids came in lower, still receiving all the same equipment, nothing had changed.
2. Councilman Oliver also wanted to let Council know that he had a call from a councilman in North, that the councilman wanted to know how we set up our Farmers Market. They liked that idea, and was interested due to our Farmers Market in Branchville.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:54 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:12. Councilman Ott second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson reports during Executive Session that they were in agreement with extending and keeping the contract as is with the Eatery. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to extend and keep the contract as is with the Eatery. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson said also that they had 3 sealed bids for the 2008 Charger. Councilman Dukes said there were 3 bids. The highest bidder was Mr. Marion Bowman @ $1000.00 and that he would be notified. Councilman Banks made a motion to accept this bid. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Ott to adjourn the meeting. Council Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly