Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, July 8 2019

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the exterior bulletin board 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 those present for council were Mayor Dickson, Councilman Ott, Councilman Oliver, Councilman Banks and Councilman Connelly. Absent from the meeting was Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship and Councilman Dukes.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed the guests and then introduced Donna Avant with Tri-County Health Network to speak. Mrs. Avant explained that she was here tonight to seek council’s approval, if they were interested, to inform the citizens about diabetes. What I would like to know is would your town be interested in such a program, and would you have a facility to hold this program. The program goals are to prevent type 2 diabetes or delay its onset, to lose at least 5 to 7 percent of the starting weight through healthy eating and get at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week. There are 22 classes in a year. The class will cover how to get active to prevent type 2 diabetes, how to track food, how to shop and cook, these are part of the topics. Mayor Dickson asked her to get with Councilman Ott; that he was over projects and events. He felt at this time more information was needed and that she could return at the next council meeting. Councilman Oliver suggest she speak with the Senior Citizens who was already meeting and Mrs. Avant agreed to do so.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the June 10, 2019 minutes. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Ott second the motion, motion carried.

C**ouncil Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Everything is running smooth.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: No problems last month, had a good month. The flags were purchased under the amount allotted. The only other thing is that the F250 has some work that needs to be done, some right away. However, I have one estimate; the cost to repair all on the list is $2931.67. I will get a second estimate. I would like to make a motion that I get the second estimate and whichever is lowest we go ahead and have the Universal Joint work performed. Councilman Banks suggested we look into purchasing a new truck. Councilman Connelly objected, not at this time. Mayor Dickson explained no funds in budget to purchase a vehicle. Council Oliver seconded motion to get second estimate and go with the lowest bidder, motion carried.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Dickson explained that Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship was not present, with the ball team, playing for the championship.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Ott reports: Nothing at this time. I am still working with the young ladies we had last month on the classes.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: Nothing at this time, things are running smoothly.
6. **Police Department:**  Mayor Dickson explained that Councilman Dukes was on vacation and gave the monthly on the Branchville Police Department. Chief Clark informed council that all of the parts needed for the charger should be in soon and that they would get them installed.

**Old Business:**

1. None at this time.

**New Business:**

1. None at this time.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mr. Glenn Miller complimented the flags being put up and also complimented the cleaning of some property; he had noticed and it looked good, thank you for that also. Also pertaining to the truck with the second estimate you need to call Carolina Auto at 268-2700 they know what they are doing and will do a better and cheaper job than a dealership will.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Glenn Miller asked what the long term plan for Branchville was. We have nothing for the youth, they will leave. No jobs, we need something, make a move. Mr. Miller states that he loves Branchville and wants to see it prosper. Mayor Dickson explained that all present felt that way and if something was to come up to promote jobs we would jump on it. Orangeburg is getting monies for spec building, we need something. Mr. Miller suggested that perhaps the old depot could be turned into stores or something like that. Mayor Dickson said we have already specified the use of the penny monies and that it had to be used for that purpose and it could not be changed.

Mr. Kenneth Hardee thanked Councilman Connelly: I have seen you out doing something, can’t say I have seen anyone else doing anything. Mr. Kenneth Hardee addressed the council: what about the roads, they are not paved. The roads out here are unreal, totally unreal. You can go to the other towns and they have good roads, smooth, paved. Someone isn’t doing something. Mayor Dickson said I can answer that, and I believe Donny could answer that too. I met with Harry Wimberly and Sam B. the Highway Commissioner over 1 ½ years ago before RR days. I had meetings and placed calls about the roads. I have spoken in the past about the roads. I have spoken with the Senator and his representative. I have been working on this for a while. I was promised something would be done. I was given the District Manager’s name and I called him. I was told by the District Manger that they were trying to include a bike route and that would save some money and that was the hold up. Mayor Dickson says he told the District Manager we don’t have 25 bicyclist coming through Branchville. I counted one Sunday after church, 11 potholes from the stop sign to the railroad track. Mr. Hardee asked you can’t get them filled? Mayor’s response was no. Mayor Dickson said all I can do is call. Mr. Hardee told him he was sorry but he didn’t believe him. Mr. Hardee said he found it hard to believe that the Town of Branchville could not get this done. I got pot holes filled on the street I live on, you are not talking to the right people.

Mr. J.B. Pace addressed the Mayor: have you called several different people about the roads and talking about the depot with the land the town has we need a building put on it. There are people interested in putting in a grocery store, however they can’t build it and stock it. Why can’t the people’s tax monies pay to put up a building and one other thing, ordinance, noise ordinance do you have one. Mr. Hardee addressed they have no ordinance of no kind, just come by my house you can see chickens, goats, pigs etc. They might have them on the books, but they are here just to write tickets (referring to Chief Clark) you can’t patrol our area, I was told by him you were here to write tickets not patrol the area. Mayor Dickson says pardon me, what was that. Mr. Hardee said during the ice storm I called you and you told me the officers were to write tickets, not here to patrol the community. If you deny that you are lying. Mayor Dickson responded I am not saying it’s true, we have hired two part time officers to patrol the community at night. Mr. Hardee asked what are we supposed to do when the town has no power and there are cars riding around and no one patrolling the area? Mayor Dickson responded we have patrol riding around. Mr. Hardee said that is not what you told me then. Chief Clark speaks up and says sir, I do patrol the area. Mr. Hardee said yes, I see you riding around, I am just trying to put out to him what he said then. Chief Clark also explained that we do have a noise ordinance, however, signs must be posted to enforce the ordinance. We used to have them up on Highways 210, 21 and 78. The town would have to purchase them again and place them, which is something we need to check into.

**Items for Information:** Leaflets are on the table about head start/early start program.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Ott made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:47PM.

Councilman Oliver made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:00PM. Councilman Connelly second the motion, motioned carried.

Councilman Connelly explained that during Executive Session he addressed hiring a third person to help with maintenance of the grounds for the next three weeks and would like to roll him over into one of the young men that we use for cleanup prior to Raylrode Daze. I make a motion that we go ahead and hire the 3rd person at this time and roll him into part of the temporary help we use during RR Daze. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly also stated that George Pickering would be leaving in September and he made a motion to run an ad for his replacement. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson asked Clerk Connelly about the minutes, since I was accused of being a liar that you make sure you have the minutes about the roads. Clerk Connelly responded that the minutes were online and could be seen by anyone that wishes to look at them.

Councilman Oliver stated that a while back he had made a list of all the road signs that were missing or needed to be replaced. They have not been replaced yet. I also called about a sign on my road, and they have just called me about it, they are slow. Mrs. Beverly Berry asked if the street she lived on was one of them and Councilman Oliver replied yes.

Chief Clark informed the Mayor that he would check into the noise ordinance signs.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly