Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, December 9th 2019

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, December 9th, 2019 at 7:00 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 that Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship and Councilmen Ott, Dukes, Oliver and Banks were present. Councilman Connelly is in the hospital.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present and thanked them for coming.

Mayor Dickson called for a motion for a name only first reading of the 2020 Budget. Councilman Banks made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson announced that the Public Hearing for the 2020 Budget would be on December 16th, 2019 at 7:00PM. Mayor Dickson announced that Council was considering what non-profit organization to make the Victim Assistance Donation to, and would be announcing that information on the 16th as well.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the November 11th, 2019 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks made the motion to approve the November 7th and November 19th Budget Work Session Minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Councilman Oliver 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. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: After reviewing insurance rates, decided to keep insurance coverage as is.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: No report, not present. Mayor Dickson mentioned that Council had been getting comparison rates from surrounding counties, will discuss in Executive Session and bring back out.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: All the seasons are over, looking forward to spring. Have drainage issues at the Sports Complex, working with the county to install drainage lines and correct problem
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Ott reports: Christmas Parade December 14th, 4pm. Kid’s Night, Pictures with Santa December 12th, 2019 5:30 pm -7:30 pm.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: Going well. Town Christmas lights were damaged, thanks to everyone who helped to repair them. After Dominion installed the lights three were found not to be working. Mayor Dickson mentioned that some of the lights had issues last year as well, possibly a switch or a fuse. Will contact Dominion to correct. Lights on Butts Rd: have made contact with Dominion, waiting for response to move forward installing lights.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Good month, running smooth. 406 cases heard.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship inquired if Mayor Dickson had any information on the status of the upcoming Penny Monies. Mayor Dickson reported that he went to a meeting where this was a topic, projected date to receive April 2020.

**New Business:** No New Business

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mr. Glenn Miller asked that the Council please use their mics.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Glenn Miller addressed Council; “2020: What Council can do to entice a Grocery Store” Mr. Miller told Council that in the new year he would bring contact information for a person wanting to build a grocery store in Branchville. This person had approached Council at some point in the past about building a store but was unsuccessful. Council discussed previous attempts at building a grocery store and discussed the legalities of allowing a business to be built on the Industrial Park. Mr. Miller promised to bring the contact information for the Council’s consideration.

**Items for Information:** Kid’s Night with Santa at Town Hall on the 12th, bring your cameras. Christmas Parade Dec 14th at 4pm.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:30PM. Councilman Ott made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:25. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried. Mayor Dickson said that during Executive Session that Council had been informed that Captain John Cokley, who had been out with knee surgery would be unable to return to duty and would be retiring. Will get with the Chief about a full time officer. Also, Council was looking at the water and sewer rates, have checked with other towns to see what they charge. Water and sewer rates have not changed in several years, and due to low wages the town has had trouble filling the open maintenance position. Council decided to table the water and sewer rate discussion until after the first of the year. Councilman Oliver wanted to invite everyone to come out Saturday and enjoy the parade. He plans to have a fish fry or cookout after the parade for everyone to come and get something to eat.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly