Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, March 9, 2020

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday March 9, 2020 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 that Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Dukes and Councilman Oliver were present. Councilman Banks was absent.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present. Mayor Dickson wanted to inform those present about matters discussed in the Executive Session, therefore we moved it to the top of the agenda for this meeting.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:30 PM.

Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:00PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried. Mayor Dickson explained that personnel matters could not be discussed at this time. On the Penny Monies, we had 3rd penny monies that were rolled over, these monies must be spent by December 31, 2020. The 4th penny monies have 7 years on it. Part of the 4th penny monies will be available in August of 2020. The monies for the Town Buildings/Property will not be available until 2021. During the executive session we discussed using the Downtown Streetscape monies $94,727.00 for moving forward with the freight depot, getting an architect to draw up plans, and getting a committee together to help with this project. Can I get a motion to move forward with the committee and using the 94, 727.00 toward the Freight Depot. Councilman Dukes made a motion to move forward. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson said he had a request from the Junior Beta Club for a donation for the club’s trip to Fort Worth, Texas. I make a motion we donate $100.00. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion. Councilman Oliver said he was advised that the Town should not be making donations, that they would be opening the door to other donations. Clerk Connelly reminded the council that a banner with our names on it was supposed to be displayed. Mayor Dickson said it would be on the back of the t-shirts. Show of hands of council was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the General Fund financial report. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: No reports at this time.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Oliver reports: We have had some issues with the pumps, we do have Bruce Ellis working with us to correct some of the issues. Had several leaks, the leaks have been taken care of. On Hwy 78, Edwards Street leak was repaired. We have an issue with the road repair, we have to find someone to repair the road. Also the uniform agreement is up for renewal, Unifirst has lowered some prices to keep us with them. I make a motion that we continue with the uniform agreement. This agreement is for 36 months, three years, no auto renewal. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: Baseball kicks off this week, soccer kicked off three weeks ago and softball kicks off next week. Branchville is hosting the Lake Marion Major and Minors Jamboree this Wednesday and Thursday. This is a big deal for us, this is the only event we can charge at the gates. The jamborees rotates and this allows the different communities the opportunity to raise monies for their programs. We need volunteers to help out at the gates and canteen. We welcome the help and wish you would come join us. We have 3 softball teams, 5 baseball teams, and numerous soccer teams. We are supporting a lot and looking forward to a competitive and fun spring time.
4. **Projects/Events:**  No report at this time.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: We had an A/C unit at Town Hall that had some repairs done as well as a couple of restrooms, other than that everything is good.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Good month, we had a cage installed in one of our police cars, which will help protect our officers. Chief Clark thanked the council for the cage.

**Old Business:**

1. Councilman Oliver provided the other council members with educational materials he obtained from Legislative Day. “There are lots of good material and information in the handouts provided. Also, the lights on Butts Road. I discussed the cost with Zac’s Tree Service and Dominion for cutting trees for the lights. However, I am looking at some solar lights, perhaps. These would be guaranteed for 10 years. In the past solar lights were discussed on the street Mrs. Beverly Berry lives on.” Council discussed perhaps getting a solar light and trying it out. Councilman Oliver will obtain more information, cost, installation, etc. and will bring back this information in the upcoming future. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship complemented Councilman Oliver for his continuing education to support the Town of Branchville.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson said he had received some information about Byrd’s Cemetery Clean up schedule and was asked to please display. He asked the clerk to post the information in the display case at the Town Hall.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mrs. Beverly Berry thanked Councilman Oliver and liked the idea about the solar light. I have had complaints about the corner of Edward and Fairey that might be a good place.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Miller asked council again to please use the microphones we need to hear what you all are saying, can only hear a word and now then. Please use microphones.

**Items for Information:** Roadside clean up where you live and work, information is on the table about cleaning dates, please pick up one. Mayor Dickson reminded everyone of the election to fill the council seats that are open. Someone from the audience asked if both seats would be filled at once and Mayor Dickson explained one seat would be filled in March at that election and the 2nd open seat will be filled in June at that election.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly