Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

By Phone Only COVID-19

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, April 13, 2020 7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday April13, 2020 at 7 PM by Phone Only due to COVID-19. Council voted by email on April 3rd to adopt the Emergency Ordinance provided by MASC to be able to continue holding council meetings by phone. Copies of the ordinance and votes are available for viewing and also a copy is with the council meeting notebook. 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, Councilmen Dukes, Oliver, and Banks were all present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those that had joined the meeting by phone and they introduced themselves as Pauley Jumper, Helen Salters, Pastor Green, and Charlie Byrd.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson informed those attending that he had written a letter to Farmers and Merchants in reference to (2) two buildings on Hwy 21 asking if they would consider giving the buildings to the Town of Branchville, they are supposed to get back with me. I also wrote a letter to Senator Matthews in reference to the 30,000 for the Freight Depot. Also want to make you aware that I have written a letter to Railroad in reference to perhaps leasing the land joining the freight depot, we will need additional parking space when renovated. The repairs to Highway 78 Edwards Street has been completed where the water line had busted and we had to repair the road. We have started the Horton Field clean up, they have removed the netting and removed an old building converting to soccer field. We have the 3rd penny monies to help with some of these renovations that we have to spend by December 2020. Also some of the picnic tables have rotted and would like to replace with a metal picnic tables at the Playground, will discuss this in the future. Also the bleachers at Horton Field are so big, they are really large, perhaps we could sell them. We will also bring this up at a later date. I had on the agenda that the Audit was to begin, however, that is on hold at this time due to COVID-19. Also the election had to be postponed due to Covid-19, we have two seats open. Glenn Miller & Tommy Connelly are running for one seat and the second seat we only had one to sign up and that was Pauley Jumper. No date has been set for these elections at this time.

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

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

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Nothing to report on Town Hall. I would like to know if we could look into hiring someone to run the water department and do we have the monies to do so. Mayor Dickson suggested that perhaps they could form a committee and check into it. Mayor Dickson suggested himself, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship and Council Oliver could be the committee. Councilman Banks made a motion for those named to be the committee. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks also wanted to know where the funds were coming from for Horton Field. Mayor Dickson explained that was the monies Senator Matthews had said they had for infrastructure money that he had written the letter about as well as the use of the 3rd penny money.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Oliver reports: The repairs to Highway 78 had been completed and the pump repairs are finished. I have a price of 2500.00 to fix both walkways at the Lagoon. I make a motion that we go ahead and have it fixed. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson said we could use 3rd penny monies to fix them with.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: Due to Covid-19 and the closing of the parks the Youth Board also closed the Sports Complex. A tentative open date for the Complex is set for May 11, 2020. We are doing regular maintenance at this time. I would like to know if we could renew the agreement with Mayor Bishop from Rowesville for mosquito control as we did last year if the agreement stays the same. I make a motion we enter the same agreement as last year. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.
4. **Projects/Events:** Nothing at this time.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: We have a restroom that needs repair up front at Town Hall, however due to so little use we have not repaired it at this time. Mayor Dickson informed everyone we had someone cutting grass. It is not full time, it is a non-permanent position, however, we still need a second person. Councilman Oliver said he was working on that.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Not a lot going on due to COVID-19. Court has been cancelled until further notice and our officers are not writing any tickets. Not sure if there are any funds to help with the salary of the officers. The office staff was asked to please check into the small business loans and also check with MASC.

**Old Business:**

1. None

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson thanked the office staff for setting up these GO TO MEETINGS to be able to hold our council meetings.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mr. Byrd had a question on the mosquito spraying how far do they spray? Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship said just within the City Limits as last year.

**Public Comments Other:** None

**Items for Information:** None

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly