Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, November 9, 2020

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, November 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 all council was present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present. The guest tonight is Mr. & Mrs. Dash, they have a concern and I am turning the meeting over to them. Mr. Dash thanked council for allowing him to speak with them about a sewer issue he has. He stated that the town employees for the maintenance department had come and the town sewer lines were not stopped up and that he had to have a blockage on his side. We borrowed the town’s equipment to see if we could clear the blockage ourselves, but that was unsuccessful. We called in a Plumber and he exposed the sewer lines. We have pictures and when we try to snake the line we can hear it hitting at the elbow. The Plumber was also unsuccessful in opening the line. It is his opinion that the blockage is at the elbows and that the town should correct it. Mayor Dickson asked if the town was to assist him, would he give his permission for us to be on his property and also would he release us from any damages. Mr. Dash said yes he would. Mr. Dash said he also had a broken water meter box that the light company broke back during the ice storm. Mayor Dickson, after discussion with council, asked the council what was their pleasure on this matter. Councilman Oliver made a motion to repair the sewer lines by removing the two elbows and replacing them with two 45’s and install a clean out, as well as to replace the broken meter box. This would begin in the morning. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Mr. Dash thanked the council for their assistance in this matter.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made a motion to approve the minutes from the budget meeting held on November 2, 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report. Councilman Jumper 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 Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Jumper second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Nothing at this time really, I have given the insurance companies until the end of December to place any bids they might have.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Oliver reports: We are having issues with the pump on Hunter Street again. I have a call placed to the company who worked on them. They were supposed to come today but they did not, so waiting to hear from them. We put a request into Dominion quite a while back because we have a lot of streets lights not working and they still haven’t fixed them. Mayor Dickson told Councilman Oliver to get him the list and he would place a call to Roy Judy. He is assisting Dominion and he would get his help.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: It is quiet at the complex. The only thing going on is that Healthy Blue, Blue Choice Health Plan of SC and the Orangeburg County Sheriff Department is hosting “A Day of Thanks and Giving”. They will be passing out turkeys and holiday trimmings given away while supplies last. Also there would be festive events filled with joy and thanks as they give back to the community, it will be gobbles of fun for the whole family. The event will be November 18, 2020 at the complex from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Mayor Dickson asked clerk to notify the ministerial alliance to help us spread the word.
4. **Projects/Events:** The parade will be December 20th at 4:00 and that the letters had been mailed for possible participants.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: The work at the Community Center and the awning has been completed with the penny monies that were approved at this time. Mayor Dickson stated that he was meeting with Betty Henderson and Ken with KMS Enterprises. Betty has monies coming through the county of Orangeburg and she would like for it to be used at the Community Center. It will be no cost to the Town of Branchville. We will be discussing perhaps repairing the ceiling and floor.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: We have had a good month. The part time Officer Don Johnson is no longer with our department.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson informs council that this Thursday at 2:00 pm at the Town Hall we will be opening bids for the freight depot. Any of you that are free and would like to come please do so. Remaining items listed on the agenda I would to move to Executive Session as well as EMS building listed under new business.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson explains we have the new proposed meeting schedule before you for the 2021 Council Meeting dates and time, do we have any discussion or a motion to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to accept the new schedule. Councilman Jumper seconded, motion carried. Also we have before us a request from Lockett Elementary School requesting that we allow the Yellow Jackets face masks be sold in town hall. They will provide the masks and are asking for the staff to assist with this project, it is a fund raiser. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to allow the items to be placed for sale. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Also we have before us a request from the T&D asking us to sponsor the T&D in “Coloring Books”. The coloring books will be online. Council had no comment or vote for.

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** None

**Items for Information:** Parade December 20th 4:00PM. Councilman Oliver said he had several to ask if we would be renting the Community Center due to Covid. Council decided to revisit this at the next council meeting in December.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:35PM. Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motioned carried. After returning, Mayor Dickson gave to floor to Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship stated we have been accepting bids for a new waste service provider. We discussed this and I make a motion that we remain with Waste Management. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained we have some equipment with the water system that has become obsolete and have been looking at some new electronic read equipment and purchasing this with penny money. Do I have a motion we move for with this. Councilman Oliver made the motion. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained we have someone interested in renting the Old EMS Building. It was discussed that rent would be 250.00 as is. The renter would pay the water and light utilities, if it pleases the council to move forward. Councilman Oliver made the motion to move forward with. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained that in the process of preparing the budget the council discussed a rate increase in water, sewer and garbage rates. If it pleases the council that water rates would be raised for the first 1000 gallons by 2.00, sewer rates for the first 1000 gallons would be 1.00 more and garbage would be raised 1.25. Councilman Dukes made a motion to accept the new rates. Councilman Banks seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion in name only for the rate increase. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly