Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, February 10, 2020

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, February 10, 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. Mayor Dickson made those present aware that Waste Management increased their trash pickup rates by 3% and that the contact for Waste Management would expire in February 28, 2021. We would need to write a letter 3 months prior to the expiration date notifying them that we do not wish to continue the contract and we would need to seek bids prior to this. He also informed council that water was holding inside the shelters at the WWTP that housed the CL2 and S02 chemicals and the contractor had drawn up a plan that was in your packets of how they plan to correct. Alvin Jeffcoat will let us know if this solves the problem once they move forward with these plans.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the January 2020 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship 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. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship 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: Have a statement from our insurance carrier that says we have underinsured buildings and fences that are not covered in our policy. Would like to discuss figures in Executive Session.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Oliver reports that he spoke with Bruce Ellis about the pump station. One is need of repairs and he would be getting a quote up for that. Councilman Hardee said the wear plates on the pump had to be replaced. Councilman Hardee also informed council that the bushes in the Island on Hwy 21 was a hazard. They are blocking the view of oncoming traffic. Councilman Hardee made a motion to have the shrubs removed from the island, leaving the palm trees. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Mr. Hardee also addressed several pieces of property he had received complaints about. Mayor Dickson explained the proper protocol for this matter and that the areas he was speaking of had already been looked into and time was an issue and some were on the list to be cleaned up by the county.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports that the complex had its first baseball practice tonight. They were moving forward with softball. We did work on the drainage issue at the sports complex. I want to thank those that came out and helped. We had a great turn out of people for this cleanup work day. Councilman Banks and Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship informed those present that the High School teams from several towns would be playing at the complex on Friday the 28th at 5:30 and again on Saturday the 29 at 10:00 AM and would like for the town to please if possible have the police department’s presence be known. We welcome them to any game being held at the complex.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Hardee announced that the Eatery was hosting a book signing on February 22, 2020 at 2:00. Historian Thomas Ott brings to life this 189-year-old story in his new book, Saturday & The Witch Woman, the true tale of Philip Chartrand, the Eatery’s founder, Stationmaster, and the story of his devotion for a slave named Saturday; the man who saved his grandfather’s life. This is part of the history of Branchville, please go and be a part of this event.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports going pretty good. Someone broke some windows and busted a door at the Evans Street playground. It was requested by council that Nelson please clean up the debris from the tree that fell at Horton Field.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports the police department had a good month, everything is running smoothly at this time.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship asked when the penny monies would be available for use. Mayor Dickson said he was told in April, but he would look into it again. Mayor Dickson also explained that the WWTP had a checking account that had a remaining balance of 38.11 in the account. When this account was opened the first $100.00 came from the general account to open the account and purchase checks. Since this project is completed, would like to know if the current balance of 38.11 could be issued back to general fund and this account closed. Councilman Dukes made the motion to close the account and move the funds. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver informed council that Dominion had contacted the homeowners on Butts Road to get permission to place street lights on their property. The homeowners do not want them on their property, they want them across the street. Trees would have to be cut down and would be a much greater cost to the town.

**New Business:**

1. None at this time.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mrs. Beverly Berry said she was glad to hear that the council approved the removal of the bushes from the island. She also informed those present that family of Philip Chartrand was buried in the Ott Cemetery here in Branchville.

**Public Comments Other:**  None

**Items for Information:** Councilman Hardee said he had checked on the highways and would they would be started. US 78 from Sub Road to US 21 will be later this year and should be completed by the summer or before in 2021. They are going to move the center lane over so the big trucks will have more room to turn onto US 78 eastbound. The rest of US 21 to SC 210 should be done by the fall of 2021 or spring of 2022. From Edwards St. to Hunter Street completed date should be June 2020 and from Edwards St. to Dorange Road October 2021. Councilman Oliver informed those present that the Concerned Citizens was no longer using the old rescue building for the Fresh Market. Councilman Oliver also said he did go to the Hometown Legislative Action Day and that Senator Matthews did recognize the Town of Branchville. The classes were excellent.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:43PM. Councilman Banks made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:03. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried. Mayor Dickson explained on the personnel matter can’t bring up at this time.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly