Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday May 8th, 2023

7:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, May 8th, 2023 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 call indicated all were present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made Councilman Oliver to accept the April 10th 2023 minutes with one correction to a section about work being done replacing water lines; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report; Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly made a motion to accept the January 2023 Water & Sewer Financial report; Council seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Jumper made a motion to accept the Municipal Court Financial report; Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Baker reports that Clerk Jackson has gone out on maternity leave, and Gwen Harbeson has come in to help out on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Business Licenses renewals are in progress, sitting about 85% completion.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports we have had a few leaks, but we have been fixing them as we go. Everything else is going along well.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Councilman Banks reported the season will be wrapping up with tournaments at the end of May. The bathrooms at the Sports Complex will be discussed in Executive Session
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Peeples reports there will be a Ham Dinner to benefit Ralyrode Daze May 21st at the Junction. The golf tournament to benefit Raylrode Daze is on June 17th. Mayor mentioned that the Branchville Girl’s Softball team is also doing a fundraiser for the Mitchum family, who recently lost their house in a fire.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Mayor Pro-Tem Oliver reports everything is going well with Buildings and Grounds. No problems this past month, hopefully none in the future.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Jumper reports a pretty good month in April. Highway 21 is closed at Whetstone Crossroads for bridge repair until mid-August. Councilman Banks asked how the detour for the bridge repair is affecting the police department’s tickets, Clerk Maynard replied that it has not made a change as of yet.

**Old Business:** Councilman Banks asked if we had received any response from the letter to Palmetto Utilities about the line break last month. Clerk informed Council that we have not received the return receipt from the post office to indicate that the letter has been picked up. Council discussed next steps.

**New Business:** Mayor Dickson reports that he met with Walt Holliday of the Orangeburg County Highway Department about sidewalks around town that have popped up. Mr. Holliday has committed to fixing our sidewalks after July when his budget comes in. Mayor Dickson also thanked Councilman Jumper for marking all the sidewalks that need work. Mayor also spoke with Mr. Holliday about the ditch at the Freight Depot, unfortunately the ditch is not on highway right of way, which let to Mayor speaking with County Councilman McCaster, who is checking on a solution to the problem.

Mayor received a congratulatory letter from Senator Brad Hutto in reference to the grant that the Town was awarded to put generators in at the six pump stations. The amount of the grant is $521,280. Spicer was approved to do the work, but do not know when it will be starting, will contact them for update.

Mayor had a meeting with Hussey Gay and Bell about the grant for the replacement of water lines on Evans, Reeves Branch and Bridge, we are about 90 days from putting out for bids to start work for this project. The mapping that is being done by SERCAP is almost complete.

**Agenda Items/ Public Comments:** None at this time.

**Other Items/Public Comments**: Al Lyons reported that since the last meeting there was $135.00 donated at the Museum. Also one visitor to the Museum requested that a podcast be done about the Museum. Also a gentleman from Cope is in the process of donating some old tools for display.

**Items for Information:** Mayor Pro-Tem Oliver mentioned the Municipal Association’s Annual Meeting in Greenville at the end of July. He would like to attend, if anyone else would like to attend please get with the Clerk to start the process. Councilman Banks acknowledged Mrs. Beverly Berry who was in attendance and expressed Council’s condolences in the loss of her husband, Mr. Charles.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson called the Council into executive session at 7:19pm to discuss Personnel Matters, Contractual Matters, Lawn Care Service, the bathrooms at the Sports Complex and the first read for the LRS ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Connelly to go into session; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Connelly at 8:02 pm to return back to a regular council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**LRS Ordinance**: The Municipal Association requested that all towns that they currently collect taxes for under several different programs enact this ordinance to bring all of those programs together under one umbrella. The programs that will be in this ordinance are the Insurance Tax collection program, the Broker’s tax collection program and the Telecommunication Tax Program. This ordinance brings them all together under the name of “Local Revenue Services” (LRS). This is the first read of this ordinance. Motion to accept the ordinance was made by Councilman Connelly, second was made by Councilman Jumper. Second read will be at the next council meeting.

**Dominion Contract**: We have signed the contract with Dominion for 140 LED streetlights. They will begin installation in July.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Clerk of Court

Emily Maynard