Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday August 14th, 2023

7:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday August 14th, 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 except Councilman Banks.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman Connelly to accept the July 10th 2023 minutes; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilwoman Peeples made the motion to approve the General Fund

Financial report; Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly made a motion to accept the January 2023 Water & Sewer Financial report; Mayor Pro-Tem Oliver 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 Clerk Jackson has returned from maternity leave. The last of the places that still haven’t paid their business licenses have been sent a letter with a time limit. Otherwise everything is good with Town Hall.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports all repairs have been fixed at this time, no leaks that we know of. The asphalt was fixed by the funeral home and the guys are working hard.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Councilman Banks is absent, Mayor Dickson reports they are taking applications for flag and tackle football and cheerleaders.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Peeples reports the softball tournament fell through, had to cancel. Planning for Halloween Junk-a Treat at Branch Junction October 31st, 6-8 pm.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Mayor Pro Tem Oliver reports everything going pretty well in Buildings and Grounds. Did light bulb replacements at Town Hall on Friday, working on outside lights. Council has papers in front of them about the options for playground equipment for Evans St playground. Mayor Dickson made a motion that Council discuss the equipment in Executive Session. Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried. For the Community Center, we will be calling Servpro to do testing on the original floor for asbestos, which will let us know what we can do with it. Also suggested that we build a shelter off the back of the Center for people to grill under to reduce the potential for a fire. It was agreed that this would be discussed in next month’s council meeting. The emergency lights and the Ac are still acting up at the museum, will get them checked. The main office at Town Hall is heating up exponentially in the afternoon, may need to see if tinting the front windows would help, was determined that it was likely just the time of year, heat indexes have been extremely high.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Jumper reports we had a good month, have been working out the kinks in Chief’s car concerning the cables for the radar and camera. Had to replace the compressor and motor mounts in Katie’s car. Mayor Dickson mentioned that he compared the numbers on the fine amounts over the year and the budget and saw that due to the bridge being shut down on Hwy 21 our fine amounts have been affected.

**Old Business:**  Second Reading and finalization of the updates to the Business License ordinance outlined by the MASC. Motion was made by Councilman Jumper to adopt the changes, Councilman Connelly seconded, motion carried.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Agenda Items/ Public Comments:** No Comments.

**Items of Information:** No Items for Information

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson called the Council into executive session at 7:19 pm to discuss Budgetary Matters and Police Department Matters. 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.

Council held the first reading of an amendment to the water/sewer rates ordinance. This amendment would modify the original ordinance to state that the rate increase every year would be from 0 to 3% each year, rather than 3% each year. This would allow Council to maintain the same water rate from year to year unless a rate change was deemed to be needed. Councilman Connelly made the motion to make this amendment, Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried.

It was discussed in Executive Session to move the time of the Council Meetings back to their original time at 6pm. Mayor Pro-Tem Oliver made the motion, Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried.

Playground Equipment was also reviewed in Executive Session and a selection was made. It was decided that we would purchase two, one for each park.

It was also discussed in Executive Session that Chief Clark contact the car dealer and start the process to purchase a second new police car.

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

Clerk of Court

Emily Maynard