

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2019
7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, September 9, 2019 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. At this time Mayor Dickson introduced Judy Capehart with the USDA. Mrs. Capehart said that she was here to inform the council that they had been approved for the grant request that was submitted and was here tonight to seek the council's pleasure if accepted. Approved was 31,000.00 for the list of items that was provided, which she read. The Town of Branchville will have to match this grant in the amount of \$7,800.00. Mayor Dickson read a copy of a resolution. Mayor Dickson asked for council's pleasure. Councilman Dukes made a motion to accept the grant. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson explained due to the length of time it took to process the request a few tweaks might have to be made. If anyone had any questions, to please contact Emily Maynard.

Mayor Dickson then turns the meeting over Mrs. Lori Salley for audit for 2018. She discussed the audit packet that was given to the councilmembers. Different questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Salley expressed the importance of the Revenues and Expenses in the budget. Mrs. Salley said everything went well during the audit and she complemented the office staff.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the August 12, 2019 minutes. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson reports he received a Drought Status from SCDNR on August 12, 2018. Also he reports the Town Sign is out and he has a repair estimate, cost of 290.96. We have to have this repaired, asked for a motion. Councilman Connelly made a motion to repair. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Also Mayor Dickson said he notified council by email about the ad for Raylrode Daze to be placed in the newspaper and that they voted by email to publish. Mayor Dickson said he notified Amy Bryant with the T&D.

Approval of Financial Report: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Councilman Ott 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 Connelly made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Ott second the motion, motion carried.

Council Reports:

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: All is good.

2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: We have replaced some cooling fans at the lift station. Wanted to inform that we have received the insurance check for the property loss at Robert May's residence. Also I have been trying to reach a gentleman with Norfolk Southern Railway Company. He has been traveling and has not gotten back to me. I was told we have a current lease on the Passenger Depot.
I did get some information on the Freight Depot. I have paper work that says that Norfolk Southern gave the Freight Depot to The Town of Branchville, get it insured if not insured. I can't tell you why it was not recorded with Orangeburg County. Mayor Dickson said he would take this paperwork to the county and have it checked out and recorded. Councilman Connelly said he would continue to pursue this information as well as the passenger depot.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: Well, it is a busy time. Football starts tomorrow night, we have cheerleading and soccer, busy time.
4. **Project/Events:** Councilman Ott reports: We have a National Diabetes Prevention Program going on. It will start September 26, 2019 and end in August 2020.
They will meet each Thursday from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. They will be working with diabetes, weight loss and physical therapy. At the Community Center October 5, 2019 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM we will have Health Fair Day. These two ladies will be monitoring Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar, there is no cost to the public on either of these two events.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: No problems running smoothly.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Good month, we do have Jasmine Snell who has joined the Police Department part time for now perhaps full time in the future.

Old Business:

1. Councilman Oliver states that he has spoken with Dominion Energy. If the residents on Butts Road will allow lights to be placed on the home owner's property, the installation cost would drop to \$5279.00. Mayor Dickson asked that he follow up with it and report back later.
2. Councilman Dukes reports that at some point the 2018 Dodge Charger was backed into or struck on the rear back bumper. We have gotten estimates and sent to Insurance Company. The Insurance Company has responded back that they will paid said bill less the \$500.00 deductible.
3. Councilman Connelly reports that he did install the Noise Ordinances signs and Chief Clark said he was issuing warning tickets at this time.

New Business:

1. Mayor Dickson explained that at the WWTP Upgrade had a change order that increased the total contract amount and extended the completion date.
2. Mayor Dickson also said he was notified by a representative of SCE&G about annexation and that an agreement had been reached of a complaint that SCE&G has included a charge for a municipal franchise fee in the electric and gas bills of some customers whose service address is outside municipal limits and therefore not properly subject to such a charge.
3. Councilman Connelly said he was asked right before the meeting to bring up some paperwork in their packets from Emedco. This really belongs to Councilman Oliver, however it was left off the agenda by the clerk. These are two signs to be placed, one on the side of the Town Hall and one on the front. It can be seen from the street and identifies what

offices are in the buildings. The cost of the two signs are \$315.86. I make a motion to purchase said signs. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Public Comments Agenda: None

Public Comments Other: None

Items for Information: Mayor Dickson stated the Diabetes Prevention papers are on the table. Councilman Oliver stated that he saw that the signs that were missing on the different streets that was reported a while back was being replaced and he stressed that house numbers needed to be displayed so they could be seen.

Executive Session: Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 8:12PM.

Councilman Ott made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:25PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson said they had nothing to report from the Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Ott to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Town Clerk
Faye Connelly