Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

February 13, 2017 7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on February 13, 2017 at 7 PM at the

Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the front door 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 Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilman Blankenship, Councilman Ott, Councilman Dukes, and Councilman Olive was present and Councilwoman Bryant was absent.

**Welcome of Guest:** Was given by Mayor Dickson, welcomed Al Jenkins whom is the Regional Director for Senator Tim Scott. Mr. Scott passed out his business cards and said for anyone to feel free to contact him is they needed to. He would return any calls and would do what he could to assist in any matter if possible.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the January 9, 2017 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion to approve the January 9, 2017 Budget Minutes, Councilman Ott seconded, motion carried. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the January 17, 2017 Budget Minutes, Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Dukes 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 Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Dukes second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Report:**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings reported for City Hall/License/Insurance. No report on license and insurance. City has new employee Emily Maynard.
2. Councilman Dukes reported for the police department. Police department is running smoothly, asked Chief Clark if he had any comment. Chief Clark replied everything is good, no problems.
3. Councilman Ott reported for the Water/Sewer department. General report was good. We are still working on some projects for our water lines.
4. Councilman Blankenship reported for the Parks & Recreation department. Had a lot going on with our kids we have more kids than every participating. Reported a lot of action out at the new sports complex. We have 7 teams for baseball, 3 softballs teams, 35 kids playing soccer. Encourage everyone to come out to the complex.
5. Councilwoman Bryant was absent no report on Projects and events.
6. Councilman Oliver reported on Buildings and Grounds. Eatery has an A/C unit that was not working and that it was leaking into the ceiling. Did get unit up and running at this time however, company working on unit that it needed to be replace. We also need to secure old Fire Station Door. Will get quotes on said items and bring up at next council meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. **Town Signs:** Table till next council meeting due to other pressing expenditures. Kick Booty was lowest bid of 770.40 plus 40.00 for sheet plywood for each sign replaced, 2 signs need of repair. Councilman Oliver made the motion to table till next council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded, motion carried.
2. **Town Ordinance 2 Reading for Number readings:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made the motion for the town ordinance. Councilman Ott seconded, motion carried.
3. **Orangeburg County Ordinance:** Councilman Blankenship made the motion for the Orangeburg County Ordinance. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried.
4. **Light On Hughes St.** Councilman Oliver spoke with SCE&G and they will install pole, wiring and install light for $9.00 a month on Hughes street, it is a dark area and due to a fire hydrant being at that area creates a danger. Councilman Dukes made a motion to have light installed. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.
5. **FEMA:** Mayor Dickson informed those present that there had been a meeting with representatives of FEMA and that we were working on perhaps getting anywhere from $15 to $20 Thousand Dollars from FEMA due to Storm Matthew, due to equipment, man hours and other expenses. Will have to meet again and issue paperwork for said expenses.

**New Business:**

1. **Guest Speaker:** Spoke at the being of the meeting.
2. **Hydrant Flow Testing:** Councilman Ott reports that Hydrant Flow Testing is required every 3 years, we are a little past due, but will be okay need to have flow testing done. We have 2 bids for this one is 5760.00 the other 5250.00 for 210 hydrants. Lower bid is the gentleman we have used in the past and he has done this same testing in Ehrdardt South Carolina for the past ten years. Councilman Ott made the motion to have Shaw Sauls do the flow testing. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. **Voter Registration and Election:** Mayor Dickson acknowledge that the Orangeburg County Voter Registration and Elections Board extended an invitation to Mayors, Clerks to attend a Meeting on March 2, 2017 at 9:00 they will define the election information and duties to facilitate effective communication and collaboration between representatives from the towns in pursuit of a smooth election process. Faye Connelly the town clerk will be attending this meeting and she is to contact the former Municipal Election Commission to see if they will continue to serve on this commission.
4. **CDBG-Wetlands Process:** Mayor Dickson explained that he have a grant for $750,000. I received an email from Mr. Jeff Derwort saying that what was holding up this grant was wetlands that are around the waste water plant and they were waiting on the test reports from the Core of Engineers.
5. **Personal Property Lease Agreement:** Agreement with Orangeburg County they purchased equipment to be used at the “Sports Complex” located at 2645 Classic Road, Branchville, South Carolina. Equipment purchased was two Commercial Mowers, two Trimmers and two Backpack Blowers. This equipment will be housed here at the town hall, however will be used at the Sports Complex only.
6. **Not on Agenda in council packets TCCP Agreement:** Mayor Dickson spoke about the Agreement between the MASC and Municipal Associations for collection of business license taxes from telecommunications.This agreement gives the MASC authority to collect taxes from telecommunications companies on our behalf. This agreement was signed by Mayor and council when the Town of Branchville joined the program back in 1999.
7. **Not on Agenda: - Moss Training** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings explained that our Town Website could not be changed until training was issued. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion to let Emily Maynard take this training. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried

**Public Comments Agenda**: Mr. Charlie Byrd asked about the adoption Ordinance between Orangeburg County and the Town of Branchville. Mayor Dickson explained the procedure that the County would take. The property has to be in the city limits and that there were forms that would have to be completed and submitted. These forms that are completed, will remain anonymous. The county would issue letters to property owners, if the property owners did not take care the complaint, the County of Orangeburg would step in and have the building, grounds whatever the complaint was taken care of and then the County of Orangeburg would place these expenditures to the property owners tax bills.

Ms. Virginia Fogle asked to what extent would the County of Orangeburg do this clean up? Mayor Dickson explained all of this was a new process and that we would have to wait and see what they would do, implicate the program and see and if we need to make changes we will.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Charlie Byrd asked about a water bottle that he had received in his mail box that he had been asked to give a sample of his water what was this about. None of the council was aware of this and Councilman Ott asked for his phone number and that he would look into this matter and get back with him. Mr. Byrd also wanted to know about water lines out on Sixty Six Road. Mayor Dickson spoke of other waters lines that had been installed and the expense of those lines with no one tapping into them and that we had that expense with no recoupment and that at this time he did not see council installing any water lines.

**Items for Information**: Mayor Dickson explained that he was told that the surveying flags was placed due to perhaps a bicycle lane being added from Hunter field and beyond Iris’s restaurant.

Councilman Oliver informed those attending that the business man interested in opening a grocery store and other businesses was unable to make the meeting tonight however, he would be coming in the future.

**Executive Session**: Mayor Dickson open the floor for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues and contractual matters. Councilman Dukes made a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried. Left for this matter at 7:45pm.

Council returned from executive session at 8:35 pm. Mayor Dickson said some matters discussed during the executive session could not be discussed at this time that they were still working out some issues. Mayor Dickson called on Councilman Dukes to discuss the personnel issue. Councilman Dukes announced that Jerome Felder would be joining the Branchville Police Department. Mr. Felder would be our reserve officer.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Faye Connelly

Town Clerk