Town of Branchville

2018 Budget Meeting

Regular Council Meeting

November 13, 2017 7:00PM

The 2018 Budget/ Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, November 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 present for the 2018 Budget Meeting and Council Meeting was Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Blankenship, and Councilman Oliver. Councilman Ott and Councilman Dukes were absent for both meetings.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed everyone present for the 2018 Budget Meeting.

Councilman Blankenship made a motion to accept the 2018 Budget Minutes. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried.

Councilwoman Bryant made a motion to accept the 2018 Budget. Councilman Blankenship seconded, the motion, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant to adjourn the 2018 Budget Meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 and Mayor Dickson proceeded into the regular Council Meeting.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed everyone to the regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Dickson discussed a letter from Kathy Rhoad on behalf of CASA, concerning our Victim Assistance Funds. The Town of Branchville has to issue a portion of the funds to an origination that will benefit victims of domestic violence. It was discussed to issue these funds to CASA, however, the amount will not be available until the 2017 year end and will continue discussion with a vote at a later date.

Mayor Dickson introduced Dr. Crawford with Claflin University. Dr. Crawford and students presented their presentation of Railroad Fresh Market. Railroad Fresh Market is a business plan proposed by students from Claflin University that is projected to be a grocery store in Branchville, SC. This business plan’s objective is to provided meat and produce to local residents in town and is prepared to obtain joint financing to begin work on site preparation and store operation. We are seeking funds from monetary grant donors and foundations, Branchville Community and fund-raising events. Our project will allow Railroad Fresh Market to serve the customers for their needs of meat and produce. We are also looking for a partnership with non-profit organizations to successfully implement this business plan.

Mayor Dickson thanked Dr. Crawford and the students for their presentation. Mayor Dickson also thanked Councilman Oliver for setting up this presentation. Mayor Dickson, also stated that the Town of Branchville could set up a meeting for the citizens to ask questions concerning this presentation.

Mayor Dickson informed the council and guest that there would be a meeting with Lower Savannah and Hussey, Gay, Bell. They need a start date and a finish date to complete our Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the October 16, 2017 minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Christmas Parade:** Councilman Oliver reminded everyone that the Christmas parade will be December 16, 2017 at 4:00PM. We have received some registration forms for different participants. I am trying to get some bands interested in the event. He invited everyone to come out and participate.

**Christmas Party:** Mayor Dickson asked the Town Clerk to call The Eatery at the Depot and see if any dates were available.

**ELECTION OUTCOME:** Mayor Dickson gave the results of the election for council seats. Three seats were open. Councilman Blankenship was re-elected, new councilmen will be Brett Banks and Donny Connelly. The Mayor will swear in the new councilmen at the first council meeting in January 2018.

**Mileage:** Mayor Dickson issued an expense for mileage. Upon looking in old minutes, nothing could be found in writing stating current policy on mileage. Discussion was made that documentation must be provided on a monthly basis. Any employee or council member would receive mileage at .58 per mile if on Town business. Motion was made by Councilman Blankenship to issue payment to the mayor for mileage and going forward, documentation for mileage must be done on a monthly basic. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings reports that he was given a work sheet for our property and vehicle insurance coverage, each council person has copies of these work sheets. The insurance premium is up for review, do we need to increase coverage or not is the issue. Please take the time to look over this package. The Old High School on Barton Street is not in the package that we have. The Town Clerk was asked to see what the cost would be for this addition and that we would review next council meeting.
2. **Police Department:** Chief Clark spoke on behalf of Councilman Dukes, in his absence. He reported there has been some issues at the Turn Key Apartments. He also ask the councils pleasure on a quote from Kelly Communications for brackets and installation of the new printers, laptops and scanners for the three police cars. Councilman Blankenship made a motion to approve the bid from Kelly Communication. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. **Water, Sewer, and Streets:** Councilman Oliver spoke on behalf for Councilman Ott. Had a problem on Mortgage Hill with sewer, that problem had been corrected. Also had a few leaks and he thought those had been taken care of also.
4. **Parks & Recreation:** Councilman Blankenship reports that football is over. The 11 and 12 year old won their championship. They had a great session and was a very tough team. I also want to let everyone know that the contractor we had to build the storage/batting cage did not show up. I spoke with County Councilman Wimberly he says if we get a bid and submit it before November 24 that we could use 2017 penny monies. If not, it could be as late as the fall of next year before 2018 penny monies are available. I might have to have an emergency meeting to get this approved and submitted on time. Will let you know.
5. **Project/Events:** Councilwoman Bryant has no reports at this time with Projects and Events.
6. **Buildings and Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports that the windows have been replaced at the Museum and Eatery. We are about to finish the playground on Evans Street. The playground will be locked after dark to keep anyone from being on the grounds. A security deposit will have to be paid and will be returned if no damage to the grounds or buildings. Need to have signs made up.

**Old Business:**

1. None at this time.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson ask if it pleases the council for the schedule for 2018 Council Meetings, to remain on the 2nd Monday of each month and still at 7:00PM. Councilwoman Bryant made the motion. Councilman Blankenship seconded, motion carried.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings says the Raylrode Daze committee would like to hold a kick off day in the early spring for the 50th Raylrode Daze Festival. Tickets will be issued at no cost. Due to seating issues only 125 tickets will be available. Can only issue so many tickets due to space. We will have entertainment and a meal. We are still working on some plans and will return with more information at a later date.
3. Councilman Oliver spoke of the Community Center lights were not working properly and that the exit signs needed to be replaced. He was asked to get quotes for new lights and exit signs and submit those quotes at the next meeting.

**Public Comments Agenda:**  No public comments.

**Public Comments Other:**

Mr. Glen Miller asked about the water fountain, he said it was fixed. Councilman Oliver said no it had an electrical problem. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said that the Raylrode Daze Committee was aware of the problem and that they would have it fixed. Mr. Miller asked which building was discussed for the market. Mayor Dickson responded the building Claflin was speaking of tonight was the old Rescue Squad building.

**Items for Information:** Councilman Oliver thanked the council for allowing him to take the classes with MASC. He says the classes has helped him to be able to perform his duties as a councilman.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 8:50 PM.

Councilman Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 9:10PM. Councilman Oliver second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson states during Executive Session we talked about extending Classic Road water, with a 6” and 12” water main. The county will be funding $388,523.74, the Town of Branchville will pay Metts Engineering for their service. Would like to entertain a motion to move forward. Councilman Oliver made the motion to move forward. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Clerk Connelly verified with Mayor Dickson that all money will come from Orangeburg County to the Town and the Town will pay Metts Engineering. The town will not spend any of their money on this project. Mayor Dickson also stated that the millage for 2018 will remain the same as 2017.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings states during Executive Session that a Christmas bonus for the employees was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion to give the bonus same as last year $150.00. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly