

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday December 12, 2017
7:00PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, December 11, 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 all council was present.

Welcome of Guest: Mayor Dickson welcomed all guests.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve the November 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 Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Oliver 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 Reports:

1. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings reports that last month council was given a package with the current insurance coverage of the vehicles and property owned by the town. At that time the cost of the insurance added to the old High School at 360 Barton Street was not present. The cost to add the property to current coverage will be \$63.00 per year to insure at \$100,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings made a motion to add this cost and to leave as is the coverage of the other property. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.
2. Councilman Dukes reports that the police department itself is doing well. Chief Clark stated that the police department was down to two vehicles at this time. Councilman Dukes stated that the situation with the 3rd police vehicle would be discussed later, in Executive Session.
3. Council Ott has no reports, everything is fine at this time. Mayor Dickson stated that in the near future we should get the start and end date on the renovations at the waste water treatment facility.
4. Councilman Blankenship reports November and December are slow months with the sports complex. He informed that there had been a problem with the storage/batting cage that was supposed to be built at the sports complex. The contractor dropped the ball and that the steps to move forward would also be discussed later.
5. Councilwoman Bryant has no reports at this time with Projects and Events.
6. Councilman Oliver reports that the windows had been repaired at the Museum and the Eatery, however one window that had been replaced was cracked, but was not to be

replaced at that time. A window in the back of the Museum was supposed to be replaced instead. Therefore, we still have a window that needs to be replaced cost for that window would be \$160.00. It was agreed upon to table at this time since the window that was to be replaced was not dangerous then we would bring it up again in the new year.

Old Business:

1. Councilman Oliver informed everyone that he had three quotes for the lights at the Community Center. Quotes were for LED and regular light fixtures and bulbs. It was discussed to table this, perhaps we could use penny monies for this project.
2. Mayor Dickson also informed everyone about the meeting with Claflin University. The meeting was about perhaps doing an online grocery store purchase. He said that the students had put a lot of time and energy in this project. He said he still had a lot of unanswered questions. At the closing of that meeting I asked Councilman Oliver to set up different church groups, volunteers, to dot the I's and cross the T's. Councilman Oliver says his questions were answered. That what we needed was to get finances for this program. This project is a new idea and if we were the first to accomplish, it would bring benefits, like attention to the town, new residents, and revenue. Mayor Dickson stated that we need answers, get groups together to get answers, then perhaps we can move forward.

New Business:

1. None at this time.

Public Comments Agenda: Mr. Glen Miller asked could a private group step forward for the grocery store project. What we need is someone to take the project and run with it. Would the building be available for this project? In general discussion yes, private group can run with it, building would be available. No votes were taken on any one thing, open discussion.

Mr. Glen Miller asked about the highways here in town he said in 2016 he was told there were to be done then, maybe someone should knock on the door and remind them. Mayor Dickson said he had spoken with Sam Glover, and they were still waiting.

Public Comments Other: Lorianne Miller asked the council if The Branchville Concerned Citizens Group, a non-profit organization, could be granted permission to hold monthly meetings at the Community Center. Meetings are for the public for any citizen who has a concern about their town. They would like to hold the meetings on the 3rd Thursday night of each month. At no cost to anyone. Mayor Dickson requested a contract be drawn up stating, no cost, clean up required, and the council would have the right to stop the meeting, if they so desired. We will work on contract and bring it up when everything is ready. Councilman Oliver could not comment on this issue, he is a member of the Concerned Citizens of Branchville, therefore he signed a recusal statement.

Mr. Glen Miller said the state had a ditch on his property that had recently been cleaned out. He reported to the council that he had seen children playing out there and he was afraid a child might fall in the ditch and get hurt. He stated he had called DOT and they can't do anything about it. Councilman Ott will meet with Mr. Miller he said he had an idea for problem.

Items for Information: Christmas Parade December 16, 2017 at 4:00PM.

Executive Session: Mayor Dickson announced that a topic listed under Executive Session was a Contractual Matter concerning a Police vehicle. Also not listed was a contractual Matter concerning the Sports Complex that would also be discussed. Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:46 PM.

Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:20PM. Councilman Blankenship second the motion, motioned carried.

Councilman Dukes announced that during the Executive Session they spoke of purchasing a new car for the Police Department from the State Term Contract. Cost of the vehicle is 23,915.00 and will be financed by Farmer and Merchants Bank. Councilman Dukes made the motion to move forward with the purchase. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings could not vote on this matter; he signed a Recusal Statement.

Councilman Blankenship announced that during the Executive Session that he had gotten three quotes for the batting/storage building at the Sports Complex. Councilman Blankenship made a motion to allow the bid of C.T. Sweat Construction for 76,586.00 to build the batting/storage building. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27PM.

Town Clerk
Faye Connelly