Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, August 13, 2018

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, August 13, 2018 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 were present except Councilman Banks.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed our guest, Lori Salley with McGregor & Company, our accountant. Mayor Dickson gave the floor over to Mrs. Salley for her 2017 Annual Audit Report. Mrs. Salley went over the reports, explaining to those present the completed audit report. Her report revealed in their opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the government activities, business type activities, and the major fund of the Town of Branchville, as of December 31, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. She reports this was an easy audit, and thanked the office staff for a good job.

Mayor Dickson thanked her for her support and resumed with the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Connelly made the motion to approve the July 9, 2017 minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes

made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Ott 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. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Mayor Pro Tem reported that Councilman Banks was out of town on business and that he had emailed and said he had contacted two insurance companies and was waiting on their response. Councilman Banks is getting quotes for insurance for the town and its employees.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Ott reports: Going good, we did have a lift station go out due to electricity, everything was cleared up and not any problems. County of Orangeburg helped cut some debris from the lagoon. I have hired two men part time and temporary for help with cutting grass, weed eating, edging, and getting ready for Raylrode Daze.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: We have finished all softball and baseball games. Lake Marion and the Belles went to Louisiana tournament. We will be cranking up now for soccer and football. Sign up for these events will be this Saturday.
4. **Projects/Evens:** Councilman Connelly reports: The Raylrode Daze Committee will be meeting again and I will attend to see if the town can assist them in anyway. Mayor Dickson said that the Ministerial Alliance would like to be a part of the opening ceremony, singing, speaking etc. and would he take that to Tom Jennings. Councilman Connelly told him he would, but he was sure that the speakers and singing groups was already scheduled.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: We had some issues with the A/C units at Town Hall, and also at the Railroad Museum. Both issues were taken care off. While I was at the Railroad Museum with Mr. Johnny Norris, we discussed the alarm system. I have gotten a bid to upgrade the security system at the Museum. I would like to upgrade to a key fob system, that way Mr. John would not have to hurry out to set the alarm. Town Hall would also have one of the fobs in the event that the system went off, perhaps they could reset it if needed. The cost is a onetime fee of $250.00 to upgrade with the set up. I make motion that we proceed with the upgrade. Councilman Connelly seconded, motion was carried. I also wanted to inform council that the hand rails at the Health Plex have rotted and are a liability to the town, since we own the building. They need to be replaced. My suggestion is to replace them with some material other than wood. Mayor Dickson suggested he get with the hospital and get a professional to install due to the liability reasons, and that when he had that information we would send out an Email blast to the council for a vote. We need to take action on this before the next meeting.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Everything is going good, another good month for the police department.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson wanted to let those present know that he had spoken with Mr. Baskins, who is the Engineer over five counties. Mr. Baskins says that it will be two years before the paving of Freedom Road will take place due to a bicycle lane that would be included. I told him we didn’t have that many bicyclists coming through and we needed help now.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson spoke with those present about a Senior Fair he had attended and that it was very educational. The fire department would like to hold this type of fair to educate the Seniors of Branchville. I have a list of names with different departments and would like to oversee this project. Will get together and bring back to council.
2. Second thing I am embarrassed by the way our grounds look in the town of Branchville. We only have two guys trying to take care of the grounds with everything else. No offense to anybody. I was told our town lagoon has small trees and debris growing in it. I called Henry Summers and asked for help, he said they used to take care of this and would be glad to help out. They came and the overgrowth is now cleaned up.
3. Councilman Ott also had some new business. He says the press box at Horton Field has to be replaced. I have gotten a quote from Branham Roofing for $1000.00. Perhaps when the penny monies become available we can get reimbursed. Councilman Ott made a motion to repair the roof on the press box at Horton Field. Councilman Connelly seconded, motion carried.
4. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship wanted to know what was the issue with the pack of dogs. He had heard someone had let them out, was this true? What are they doing now? Town Clerk informed Councilman Blankenship that it was true, Animal Control contacted town hall, and they informed us about this issue. Status on what they are doing right now, we do not know. Mayor Dickson said he would place a call and speak with someone about the dogs.

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** None

**Items for Information:** Councilman Connelly wanted to inform the council that he had called Enmark, the new company that purchased the Horizon gas stations. He wanted to know why they were charging .20 cents a gallon more for gas in Branchville, than the surrounding stores they also purchased. He explained to them that we have no industry and no grocery store, and it was costing the citizens of Branchville more to purchase gas than the same gas in other stores they purchased and they were robbing our citizens. Councilman Connelly asked that all who would call to contact Susan Mosley at 912-236-1331 ext 3447 and make a complaint, if not, nothing certainly would not be done.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson made a motion to go to Executive Session. Council Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left for Executive Session at 8:12PM.

Councilman Connelly made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:21PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson said Executive Session matter will be brought back at a later time. At this time I ask for a motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly