Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

October 8, 2018

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday October 8, 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 call indicated that Mayor Dickson and all councilman were present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Was given by Mayor Dickson.

**Approval of Minutes:**  Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks states he has spoken with different insurance companies about perhaps getting different coverage for the insurance. However, I don’t have any response at this time from them, maybe I will when we do the budget.
2. **Water/Sewer/ Streets:** Councilman Ott reports that he needs to get with Kevin Strickland about the lagoon work. They are supposed to be through in October, not sure if this will be the case. Also we have a reoccurring problem with the past due water accounts. We have a lot of customers not paying their bills on time; a lot of them are the same ones each month. I have a letter explaining the procedure, and from this point moving forward these rules will be followed. Nothing has changed, would like for the council to sign this letter and the staff will mail one to each customer. There are $25.00 reconnect fees and if they have to pay this maybe want buy cigarettes and things will change and they won’t wait till the last minute and want extensions. If a customer’s name is on the cut off list they must pay this fee as well. Cut off is on the 4th, if not paid prior to the 4th then you are placed on the cut off list.
3. **Park & Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports that we are in the middle of the football and soccer season. The football team is playing well. I want to apologize to the Raylrode Daze Staff. I did not remember them coming to council and asking us to not hold any games during Raylrode Days. With that being said, I could not have done anything anyway. We play football in a league. The other towns are relying on each town to play the games. We have 8 weeks to play. You can only play one game a week. The season lasts 8 weeks, we have 8 games, that is the South Carolina High School rules. We can’t play beyond those weeks because we would bump into the League Champion games. If we have a by-week next year, and I am over the youth sports maybe we could possibly have this week for that. Again, I am sorry for this mistake. Mayor Dickson said he would check into the PARD Funds and see if we could perhaps get some of those monies for the soccer field at Horton Field. I have a meeting at the County building and I will let you know the outcome.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Connelly reports we did get the one flag pole for the military flag display. It works very well, I am pleased. The company paid for the shipping when they found out it was a military display. I put in a motion that we go ahead and purchase the other 7 flag poles for the remaining flags. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.
5. **Building/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports that the phone line is out at the Railroad Museum, which affects the security system. Will have repaired just as soon as we determine who they have service with. Also, have spoken with the fire department. They have requested that we keep a 4 foot radius area cleared around the fire hydrants; they are also missing tags and are not labeled. Grass has grown out of control. Council agreed to weed-eat and keep the hydrants sprayed so the grass will stay in control. Councilman Connelly and I would like to have a Senior Safety Night for the seniors with the fire department. The meeting will make them aware of different safety issues. Flyers will be made and posted per Councilman Connelly. Councilman Oliver makes a motion for October 23, at 7:00pm at the community center. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver says he was again approached about flood insurance. It was discussed that Branchville was not a flood zone. Councilman Oliver is to gather information and bring back to the table.
6. **Police Department:**  Councilman Dukes says the police department is doing well. The problem he is aware of is that Captain Cokley’s notepad that he writes tickets on is about to crash, having a lot issues with it. In your packet you will see a laptop I would like to purchase for him at this time. The laptop was discussed. Councilman Dukes made a motion to purchase said computer. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded motion, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

1. Councilman Oliver reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade for December 16th at 4:00

**New Business:**

1. Dates were discussed for the budget work session, October 22 at 6:30 was agreed upon.
2. Mayor Dickson and council discussed different nights for the Town’s Christmas party. Councilman Ott made a motion for December 13th at 7:00pm. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson informed everyone that last year he held this event at the Eatery, and that we will hold it this year at Main Street BBQ.
3. Mayor Dickson explained that were preparing for the 2019 budget. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion in name only for the 2019 Budget. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Public Comments Agenda:**  None

**Public Comments Other:** Mrs. Lillie Williams explained that her water was cut off early in the am and that was not right. She also said she didn’t buy cigarettes. This just wasn’t right cutting water off so early in the morning. Again, council explained that this letter was going out reminding everyone of the procedure. That our staff starts work at 7:00 and this procedure would be followed. Mayor Dickson explained that the time you were to be cut off could not be determined, it was according to where you fell on the cut off list could be 1st thing or 1:00.

**Items for Information:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship wanted everyone to know of an upcoming event this Wednesday at 7:00. It is called FIELD OF FAITH, it is a moving experience. The Christian Church Praise Band would be performing. The youth leaders tell about faith. If you have a chance please come out, you will be moved.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Connelly made a motion to leave for Executive Session. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried, left for Executive at 7:50PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting. Councilman Connelly second the motion, motioned carried, returned to regular meeting at 8:45PM.

1. Halloween Event, Councilman Connelly made a motion to purchase a year license to be able to show movies to the public. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.
2. Police Dept. Grant, Councilman Dukes is to get additional information on this matter and further action will be discussed.
3. Victim Assistance: Mayor Dickson explained that monies were owed to the Victim Assistance fund from the past. We were audited by Victim Assistance and this issue came up from an audit in 2014. Councilman Oliver made a motion to repay these monies in the amount of 300.00 a month until said debt was paid. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Clerk Connelly is to inform the Auditors of this decision.
4. Millage Rate: Mayor Dickson says at this time we will leave millage as is unless we need to change when we do budget.
5. Councilman Responsibilities: While in executive a discussion was made about two councilman switching positions. Councilman Dukes made a motion that Councilman Connelly, and Councilman Ott make a switch in their positions. Councilman Connelly will be over Water Department and Councilman Ott will be over projects and events effective in November. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Faye Connelly

Town Clerk