Town of Branchville

Mayor H. Franklin Dickson, Presiding

Regular Council Meeting

September 14, 2020

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on September 14, 2020 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 the guests to the meeting. He turned the floor over to

Principal Gregory. He informed those present that the students had picked up all their devices. I wanted to let everyone know we have extended the return to campus date temporarily to September 28, 2020. If we have to extend this date again it will be moved to the end of the first 9 week period. Our teachers want the students back on campus. The council thanked Principal Gregory for his updates as well as his support and devotion to the students and citizens of Branchville.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the August 2020 minutes. Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held August 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mask Ordinance was discussed to continue as Orangeburg County did. Motion was put in order to continue the mask ordinance as per Orangeburg County for 60 days, unless cancelled. Councilman Oliver made the motion. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks voted against continuing the ordinance.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship 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 Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Banks second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. City Hall/License/Insurance: Councilman Banks reports that he has spoken with an insurance carrier for possible coverage for the year of 2021.
2. Water/Sewer: Councilman Oliver reports that it is business as usual. We have several leaks we are still working on. I do have a quote from Nick Pinckney for the work that needs to be done on Evans Street. I want to talk with him again. I believe he misunderstood what I was saying, will bring this back after I spoken with him.
3. Park & Recreation: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports that will be no football or cheerleading this fall. The fields look good. We are hosting a tournament this Saturday at the Complex. We need all the volunteers we can get to work the canteen.
4. Projects and Events: Councilman Jumper reports that the windows for the Community Center should be here this week and we hope to have this project finished in October. Also the power supplying the building has pulled loose and we will need to have this repaired. Mayor Dickson was going to supply a number for Dominion, however, Councilman Oliver informed them that the problem belongs to the town.
5. Building & Grounds: Councilman Oliver reports that the emergency lights that weren’t working had been replaced. Everything thing else is running smooth.

Due to Covid-19 question will we still have parade? Councilman Oliver answered yes, we could spread out and that would not be problem.

 6. Police Department: Councilman Dukes reports that police department is running smoothly.

 We have had a good month.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson informs those present we had to make a decision on the millage. Will

 discuss in executive session. Councilman Banks made a motion in name only to raise the

 millage for 2021. Councilman Jumper seconded, the motion carried. Mayor Dickson

 explained that we would hold a special public meeting on September 28, 2020 at 7:00PM.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson explained he had a call from Dominion and that they would not be able to

 hang the Christmas lights for any of the towns as before. We need to start looking at how

 we can get the lights up for Christmas.

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:**  Mrs. Beverly Berry wanted to know the latest up-date on the freight depot. Mayor Dickson explained we have different plans we are looking at and that we are also waiting on 4th penny money.

**Items for Information:** Councilman Oliver informed those present that the 4K Branchville Elementary students needed to register. At the present time they don’t have enough students. Know of any 4K please have them go register.

**Executive Session:**

 Councilman Oliver made the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Jumper seconded, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to return to the regular Council Meeting. Councilman Jumper second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson explained they had discussed possible water meters no decision at this time. Also our contract will be up with Waste Management and we will have to notify them if we decide to go with another company. We need to start taking bids at this time. We will put Waste Management back on the agenda for next month.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned 8:50PM.

Faye Connelly

Town Clerk