Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, January 13, 2020

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the exterior bulletin board 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 was present except Councilman Connell, who is still in the hospital.

**Oath of Office:** Council members that were sworn into office on January 13, 2020 were Councilman Dukes, Councilman Oliver and Councilman Hardee, as well as Mayor Dickson for Mayor by Clerk Connelly who is a Notary.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present. Mayor Dickson reminded the councilmen that in their packets they received information about meetings to be held about the Edisto River Basin. Mayor Dickson read a resignation letter from Councilman Connelly that explained that with a heavy heart and health issues that he had faced and was continuing to face that he had to resign as a councilman. Councilman Connelly also thanked the citizens of Branchville and the current council for their support and that he would, as a citizen, continue to do for the Town of Branchville.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the December 16, 2019 Budget Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes

made a motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Councilman Banks reports that he received a notice from the Insurance carrier making the town aware that fences around any objects were not covered and if we wished we could cover them, but we have to inform the insurance company. At this time we will table until we find out the cost of the coverage.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: No report, Councilman Connelly not present.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports we will be signing up for our sports soccer, baseball, etc. you can go to BYS Facebook page and get all the information from there. Also January 25 is a work day at the Sports Complex. We have a drainage issue with water and we can use all volunteers. Councilman Banks informed also that Softball tournament at the High School would be February 28 & 29, asked if Chief Clark could get perhaps an officer to be present.
4. **Projects/Events:** Mayor Dickson reports at this time no councilman over this department. He reports that the RR Daze Festivul committee is having an Oyster Roast. Tickets can be purchased from Tom at the Bank or by any RR Daze Festivul committee person.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: Made a motion that whomever is Santa for the Town of Branchville for Kid’s Night and the parade be compensated $75.00 from now on out until further notice so we can have a check ready. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver also reports that the Christmas Parade for 2020 will be December 20, 2020 at 4:00PM and Pictures with Santa at Town Hall will be December 17, 2020 5:30 to 7:30PM.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: We had a good month. Mr. Hewitt has left the Police Department.

**Old Business:**

1. None

**New Business:**

1. None

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mr. Glenn Miller says he is so sorry that Councilman Connelly had to resign, he is a good man and we hate to lose him. He also stated that speaking of the parade not enough invitations were not being sent out. Councilman Oliver says we do send them out, people just do not respond or participate.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Miller ask that the time of the meeting be changed that it is too late for a lot of people. Council responded that some did not get off of work in time to have the meeting held earlier. Mr. Miller reminded them that they do get paid to be a councilman. Mr. Miller addressed the use of the microphones again, please use. Need Spec building, please get with county for spec building? Mr. Miller also stated he has a phone number he is going to give to a councilman and he would discuss it with him.

**Items for Information:** Council Oliver also informed council that Legislative Action Day in Columbia will be February 4 and 5th I will bring back information to the next meeting.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:34 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 7:55. Councilman Dukes second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson made a motion that the Town of Branchville donate for two years (2) the 90% of Victim Assistance monies collected to Orangeburg County Victim Assistance Fund. Councilman Banks seconded motion and motion carried. Councilman Dukes made a motion to add Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Oliver and Councilman Hardee to the town’s checking accounts. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson announced that Councilman Hardee would be the department head over projects and events and that Councilman Oliver and Councilman Hardee would both at this time be working together over the Water Department.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly