Town of Branchville

Mayor H. Franklin Dickson, Presiding

Regular Council Meeting

December 14, 2020

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on December 14, 2020 at 7 PM at the

Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the Bulletin board at 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:** Was given by Mayor Dickson. Mayor Dickson spoke on the mask ordinance continuance. This will be last time the emergency mask ordinance can be used. If voted upon tonight to continue it will expire on February 14, 2021 at that time we will have to write our own ordinance if we were to proceed with masks. After discussion about the mask ordinance Mayor Dickson asked the pleasure of the council. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to continue with the ordinance. Councilman Dukes seconded, motion carried with Councilman Banks against.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Jumper made the motion to approve the November 8, 2020 minutes. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from November 30, 2020. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained prior to this meeting we held the Budget Hearing. In that meeting the council approved and had the final reading on the budget and the rate increases for water, sewer and garbage. We had no attendance at that meeting. Letters informing the customers of the rate increase will be mailed out tomorrow.

**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. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. Councilman Banks reports for the City Hall Department that he had been working on the Insurance coverage for 2021 with no success at this time. However, I was just informed of another source and I will contact them and follow up later.
2. Councilman Oliver reports for the water department that we have had several leaks. The one on Logan Street has been repaired and we are working now on Bridge Street, we are having issues at this time and will continue to work to solve this leak. He also reports that Dominion has come and we will check to see if we have any more lights out that need repair. Mayor Dickson thanked Councilmen Oliver, Jumper and Connelly for their services. They have been working hard to improve that department and doing part of the work themselves and wanted to acknowledge his appreciation for their service.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports that not much is going on at the Sports Complex. The turf project has been completed and we have purchased also with the penny monies score boards. This is our off season for sports.
4. Councilman Jumper reports for projects and events that the Christmas Parade is this Sunday at 4:00 PM.
5. Councilman Oliver reports for buildings and grounds we are still working on the Community Center. Mayor Dickson explained we received funds for some of this project through Betty Henderson by means of Orangeburg County and that Councilman Oliver, Jumper, and Connelly were getting bids on this project. Mayor Dickson said he had been approached about the Island in front of the Depot would they think on using pine straw instead of mulch. Also he wanted to acknowledge Eric with the water department had picked up a lot of trash, edged and really had his part looking really good and if the council saw him to please acknowledge him doing a good job.
6. Councilman Dukes reports for the police department we had a good month in November. Chief Randy Clark had no comments at this time.

**Old Business:**

 1. Mayor Dickson explained he had signed the contract for the Freight Depot. The contractors

 are to begin in the New Year.

**New Business:**

1. None at this time.

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. James Abdella with Abdella Services, Inc. introduced himself. He said he had been contacted by Councilman Oliver and perhaps he could be of service to the Town of Branchville. I work with several other towns repairing water lines, vales, hydrants. etc. We work with all types of water line materials. He did give some prices on some of his services. He thanked the council for speaking with him and looked forward to hearing from them. Councilman Oliver is supposed to follow up with Mr. Abdella.

**Items for Information:** Christmas parade this Sunday December 20th at 4:00PM.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to go into Executive Session at 7:35PM. Councilman Jumper seconded, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:20. Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson explained that the topic was a personnel matter and no other comments at this time.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned 8:23 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly