Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday, August 9, 2021

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, August 9, 2021 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 were present except Councilman Jumper.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present. He introduced Charlie Barrineau with the MASC. He is here to explain the new business license ordinance to be accepted. Mr. Barrineau thanked the council for having him tonight. You have before you the ordinance that has been prepared. The Municipal Association has been negotiating a new business License ordinance. Each town had different times of the year for the renewals, different codes. Now each town will use NAICS Codes, same year for licenses. The next step is setting up the portal so if a company chooses to do so they can purchase their licenses on line using a portal. This is mandatory and has to be done and enforced by the end of the year if you wish to continue with Business Licenses. After the discussion was finished Mayor Dickson asked for a motion to approve the new business license ordinance in name only. Councilman Oliver made a motion to accept the new business license ordinance in name only, first read. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson reminded everyone that the books for the election were opened on August 2nd at noon and they would close on August 16th at noon. Three seats are open and Councilman Connelly has signed the paperwork and would be running again for election.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson asked for a motion on the Special Meeting minutes. Councilman Connelly made a motion to accept the minutes as rendered. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report. Councilman Banks 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 Banks made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Everything is good will start shopping for health insurance again in September or October.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Oliver reports: It is the same in water land. Still having some issues.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: It has been a very busy summer. We have had several large tournaments. BYS had a meeting on Sunday. I was unable to attend, however, I know they need all new football helmets. Councilman Banks asked if penny monies or if Orangeburg County could help with this. Mayor Dickson said he would ask the County Administrator Harold Young to see if they could help.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Jumper reports. Mayor Dickson spoke for Councilman Jumper who was absent. Raylrode Daze is still on at this time. He asked if anyone knew what the mulch was about. Councilman Oliver said we need to order some for RR. Daze. Mayor Dickson said go ahead and order we do this each year.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: We should be finished with the Community Center by the end of the month. It will be available after that. The a/c unit in town hall over the rest rooms was an issue. The pan keeps filling up and overflowing. I was told we needed to lift the unit so it could evaporate properly. Mayor Dickson told him to go ahead and have it raised. Also I have a gentleman interested in doing some mowing under a contract. He was told to meet with him and get the details as far as cost etc. by Mayor Dickson and we will go from there. Councilman Oliver also says he have never received the poles as promised for the lights. I have found some we can purchase. Mayor Dickson told him to remind him tomorrow and he would check on the poles.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Officer Platt is doing well, she is taking classes on line and when completed will go to the academy. Had a good month.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson brought before council the Flood Prevention Plan that was brought before them in their last meeting. Do I have a motion to accept the Flood Prevention Plan? Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion. Councilman Dukes seconded, motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. None

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** Terrance Gibbs expressed concerns about how bad the grass looked. Mayor Dickson explained we had two young gentlemen cutting grass, however, they left and we have no part time summer help at this time. Mayor Dickson agreed the grounds do look bad.

Ms. Diane Herriot of 1209 Dorange Road expressed that she wanted water and was told several years back we could not provide that service for her. Council could not understand why not or who told her that. However, she was told we will send someone tomorrow to check on that and that Clerk Connelly would be getting back with her. She also wanted trash pickup. Council explained that we could not provide that because our trash company only picked up within our city limits. Ms. Charlene Bratcher wanted to know when we would be getting a CVS, training center, Cab Company, restaurants, bank and a Walmart. Council explained we would welcome all these, however, the town couldn’t provide these, someone else would have to, and the businesses had to want to come for that to be available. Beverly Berry also had some concerns about the upkeep of the grounds. She said we had several dead dogwood trees that needs to come up. Have a tree company come in and take them down. Also the shrubs in front of the museum needs to be cut down they are blocking the view let the grass grow.

**Items for Information:** Election November 2nd, all voting at the Community Center for Municipal Election.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:50PM.

Councilman Connelly made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:25PM. Councilman Banks second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to raise the millage rate by 1.23%. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson explained that the other matters listed was not something at this time that could be discussed and would when available.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Banks to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly