Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday April 10th, 2023

7:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday February 13th, 2023 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 call indicated all were present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present.

Our newest member, Councilman Baker, was sworn in and is now officially apart of the Town’s council.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Oliver to accept the March 13, 2023 minutes; Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Connelly made the motion to approve the March 2023 General Fund Financial report; Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Connelly made a motion to accept the March 2023 Water & Sewer Financial report; Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Jumper made a motion to accept the March 2023 Municipal Court Financial report; Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Jumper reports everything is going good this month.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports things were going fairly well until we had an outside contractor put a leak in one of the main water lines off of HWY 78. A good bit of the town was without water for several hours while the leak was in the process of being repaired. There has also been another leak discovered off of HWY 21, at this time we are not sure where it’s coming from, we can reassure that our maintenance is already looking into the matter.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Councilman Banks reported things are going great and at full speed down at the complex. The field is packed Tuesdays and Fridays with several teams coming together to play. Councilman Banks mentioned he would like to see the football program back up and running, he is going to meet with someone regarding the matter to see if it’s a possibility for the upcoming season.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Peeples reported that the Raylrode Daze Committee is hosting a ham dinner on May 21st, 2023 from 11am-2pm in Branch Junction. The dinner will be followed by the Annual Raylrode Daze Pageant at 3pm in the same location. Tickets are only $10 each and can be purchased at Branchville Town Hall as well as Farmers and Merchants Bank. Any RRD official will be able to point you in the right direction or have tickets to sell themselves. It is a Take-Out Only Event, baked goods and drinks will also be available at an additional cost.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Mayor Pro Tem Oliver reports everything has been going well. A quote has been received for fixing the floor inside of the Community Center Venue, we are in the process of receiving 2 more before asking Council to make a decision. The old/ broken playground equipment on Evans St. has been removed, we are searching for a new piece of equipment to take its place. Rain Outreach Church will be using our Community Center one day a week, on Thursdays, to host Bible Study. Locks at the Freight Depot have been giving renters some issues, we have called and A & A Lock and Key will be coming out to service the locks to make sure they aren’t causing any further inconvenience.
6. **Police Department:** Mayor Dickson stated it has been a good month for police by looking their Police Report for the month.

**Old Business:** Councilman Connelly stated that it has been brought to his attention that the grass cutters we have contracted out, are not cutting grass down and weed-eating the main highway roadways to the town limit signs as well as Branch Junction. The contractors will be contacted so this issue can be resolved.

**New Business:** Mayor Dickson stated he has met with Sercap on behalf of the digital maps being made of our water/ sewer lines around the town. These maps will be free of cost, they will locate and identify all water and sewer lines so the town will have a better understanding on where these lines are in the ground.

Mayor Dickson discussed the half a million dollar grant the town received for having generators put at all of the pump stations. This will be beneficial in case of having a mass loss of power, water and sewer lines won’t be jeopardized and will still be functional.

It was also discussed that work was beginning to move forward on the project to replace the water lines on Evans St, Reeves Branch Road and Bridge St.

**Comments Agenda Items**: None at this time.

**Public Comments:** Townsperson, Robert May, asked Council how much has the town paid back in debt on behalf of the water system. Mayor Dickson reassured him our Clerk will be able to provide him with documentation for the current and previous years showing the progression of the USDA Loan.

Townsperson, Cherie May, had questions pertaining to different items in the Financial Reports; what was being paid out of the different sectors and why the town was budgeting the money displayed. Mayor Dickson discussed her concerns and offered to give her a more in depth spreadsheet if she wished that would show what companies/contractors were being paid out of each sector as well as spreadsheets of the budgets from past years.

Y. Gibbs, Executive Director of the Palmetto Palace Mobile Health Unit, brought the mobile health bus to Town Hall for those who wanted to have a free walk through tour. The mobile health unite provides free health services for all uninsured and underinsured citizens ages 15 and up. Those will be able to sign up for all of the free onsite services including routine lab work, dental services, medical care/advice, and provide onsite medications. Dental Services include teeth filling, extraction, and cleanings. All labs are taken to Roper St. Francis Hospital where they are evaluated by primary care physicians, providers will call if anything is detected. Individuals who wish to be seen by the dental side will first be sent to the medical side to be evaluated before going through with treatment. A free bag of groceries will be given to each individual who is seen on the health unit as well.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson called the Council into executive session at 7:40pm to discuss the Dominion Energy Proposal that was received. Councilman Banks made the motion to go into session; Mayor Pro Tem Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson called the regular council meeting back to order at 8:01pm. Motion was made by Councilman Connelly to resume the meeting; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried.

In Executive session, Council discuss the Dominion Proposal. This proposal included changing out and upgrading our street lights around town to the new LED bulbs since several light posts needed to be replaced. Councilman Banks made a motion to accept the proposal; Mayor Pro Tem Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.

Town Clerk

Madison Jackson