Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday April 8th, 2024

6:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday April 8th, 2024 at 6 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.

**Swearing in of New Councilmember:** Frank Ott was sworn in as the newest member of Town Council. He will be carrying out the remaining term of former Councilman Brett Banks, and will be taking over his position as Parks/Recreation head for council.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Connelly to accept the March 11th 2024 minutes; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Connelly made the motion to approve the General Fund

Financial report; Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Connelly made a motion to accept the Water & Sewer Financial report; Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Jumper made a motion to accept the Municipal Court Financial report; Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Baker reports payments for business licenses are coming in, everything is going good with Town Hall.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Mayor Pro Tem Connelly reports everything is going well with the water department, it has been a good quiet month. Metts Engineering was awarded the contract to replace waterlines.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Councilman Ott reports the spring season is starting. BYS and the athletic director for the school are working together to hopefully allow the youth to use the new football field at the school. At this time Branchville High School is using Horton Field, hoping to set up later for some soccer at Horton. They are also trying to look into club teams for BYS to expand and have some travel teams that play year round.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Peeples reports the Easter Egg hunt was perfect, great turnout. Had planned a movie night, but that didn’t pan out, more events to come.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Mayor Pro Tem Oliver: Had one issue at the museum, but that was fixed, otherwise a good month for buildings and grounds.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Jumper reports another good month no issues reported.

**Old Business:**  Playground equipment ordered, trying to find someone to assemble it. Waiting for reimbursement on grant monies to continue. Military flag display is being assembled at the Museum, work is continuing on that, ordering all the materials.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Agenda Items/ Public Comments:** Sally Connelly introduced Jim Manning, who is giving a presentation after the council meeting for Community Heart and Soul, an organization that assists communities with town planning and projects.

Al Lyons brought the donations from the Branchville Railroad Museum for the month of March.

Sharon Murray asked questions about having broadband throughout town, and what the cost would be to citizens. Orangeburg County Broadband has been installing lines but has had an issue with installing around Dominion power lines. Mayor will not know about cost until the installation starts.

Tori Butler asked about the contract for cleaning the venues, and when bidding for that might open up.

Sharlene Bright asks Council when are we going to be able to get some kind of a grocery store or restaurant. Council and the guests discussed various options for a grocery store and various attempts that have been made to put one in town throughout the last several years.

**Items of Information:** Councilman Oliver informed everyone that due to some issues with the county our fire department is having to expand their service area, which may cause insurance to rise due to longer response times. Also Kevin Summers contacted him to inquire if the campground land was still available, he is still interested in buying and building on that property

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson made the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left for Executive Session at 6:33 pm. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:02. Councilman Ott made to motion to return to the council meeting, Councilman Baker seconded, motion carried. Reports of executive session is as follows: Clerk Jackson will be leaving employment with the Town, and Theresa Polin has been hired to take her place. Council recently had two contractors approach us to discussing buying land around town to develop into homes. Another meeting will be held, hopefully will have some good news about that soon. The small business association visited recently to inform everyone that if they had any damage during the recent storms they have options for repair.

**Adjournment**: Mayor Pro Tem Connelly made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting was adjourned.

Clerk of Court

Emily Maynard