Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Monday May 13th, 2024

6:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday May 13th, 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, except Councilman Jumper.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman Ott to accept the April 8th 2024 minutes; Councilwoman Peeples seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Financial report; Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Connelly made a motion to accept the Water & Sewer Financial report; Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson made a motion to accept the Municipal Court Financial report; Councilman Baker seconded the motion, motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Baker reports things are going good at Town Hall. Flagpoles are coming along, will be up by Memorial Day.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Mayor Pro Tem Connelly reports we have switched out the Setflow meters we have been having problems with. Update on the generators, the contract has been approved by DHEC. The next step will be bidding the job out for installation, which will be coming soon.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Councilman Ott reports the Youth Sports have all wound down for the summer, going into Allstars, will be kind of quiet until football starts up.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Peeples reports Sunday Funday this coming Sunday with rescue vehicles, games and activities for the kids, canteen will be open. Meeting tomorrow night at the Depot at 6 to finalize Sunday Funday. Community Yard Sale scheduled for June 8th.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Mayor Pro Tem Oliver: Everything going well, no problems.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Jumper is home sick, Mayor Dickson reports Chief made 158 stops and Lt. Platt made 195. That sounds like a lot, but when I-26 and I-95 get backed up all of that traffic routes through town. Mayor Dickson asked Chief Clark if he had anything to add, Chief replied that the police department is managing and making adjustments for the summer season.

**Old Business:**  Mayor Dickson: after the last meeting there was a lot of discussion about why the water rates went up over the last few years. If the guests would like to stay after the meeting adjourns he will explain the reasoning that went into the increase.

**New Business:** Councilman Ott mentioned that it had come to his attention that the Town owns an old tennis court and some people have expressed interest in turning it into a pickleball court. He has contacted a couple of different companies to look at it and see what it would take to do that. Will bring more information next meeting. Mayor Dickson mentioned that he and Councilman Oliver met with Dominion Energy this past week about an energy efficient program that they would like to bring to town for low to moderate income families that may reduce their energy bills. Dominion will be coming to our Freight Depot to host an event to promote this on June 27 that is open to all. During this meeting Mayor Dickson and Councilman Oliver discussed Dominion taking over the upkeep and maintenance of the decorative street lights that line Freedom Road, which Dominion agreed to do. Finally, as many know we are moving our military display down to the Museum, and Dominion has agreed to send a bucket truck to assist in setting up the flagpoles.

**Agenda Items/ Public Comments:** Beverly Berry asked for clarification on which lights the Mayor was speaking of. Glenn Miller asked about the placement of the flags at the museum. As an update on the playground equipment, the Mayor explained that we are waiting on reimbursement to move forward. A meeting was had with the engineering firm, and it was found that we would have to rebid the waterline project due to material cost increase. Glenn Miller addressed council about his water bill. The Mayor asked Mr. Miller to set up a meeting with him and Mike Edwards to look at the meter and discuss.

**Items of Information:** A suggestion was posed by Andrew Evans abouthaving the meetings recorded or virtual meetings for people unable to attend the regular meetings. Mayor said that council would discuss virtual meetings. Councilman Ott mentioned that typed minutes of the previous meetings are available.

Mayor Dickson introduced Theresa Polin, our new Town Clerk and welcomed her to the team.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Oliver made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters,Mayor Pro Tem Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried, Council left for Executive Session at 6:22pm. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:56pm; motion was made by Councilman Oliver to return to regular session, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Connelly. As a result of matters discussed in executive session Councilman Ott made a motion to put in a written offer to Farmers and Merchants bank to purchase the two brick buildings across from Town Hall. Councilman Baker seconded the motion, all of council was in favor to proceed. Mary Mckibbon asked about the old Doll House, Mayor Dickson mentioned that we were trying to contact the owner of that building as well.

**Adjournment**: Councilwoman Peeples made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Clerk of Court

Emily Maynard