

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday January 8, 2018

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on 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.

New council members were sworn in by Mayor Dickson. New and re-elected councilman sworn in were Michael Blankenship, Brett Banks, and Donny Connelly.

Roll called indicated that all councilman were present as well as the mayor.

Welcome of Guest: Mayor Dickson welcomed the guests that were present.

Mayor Pro Tem: Mayor Dickson explained that there were ballots available to cast a vote for Mayor Pro Tem, however, I would like to nominate Councilman Blankenship. He stated that Councilman Blankenship was the number one vote getter, and that he had been on council longer than anyone else. Councilman Dukes made the motion to elect Councilman Blankenship for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the December 2017 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Dukes 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. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Oliver second the motion, motion carried.

Council Reports:

- 1. City Hall/ License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports, no reports at this time. I do see that we have some buildings that are under-insured and that we have a replacement cost sheet. Discussion on the coverage was decided last month to leave as is. Due to being under-insured, this re-opened a discussion whether to increase coverage or not. However, due to having a deadline to answer and not enough time to check coverage from a different company, Mayor Dickson made a suggestion to accept and keep as is for now, and that Councilman Banks in the future could check perhaps for lower coverage cost. Last month's motion stands.
- 2. Police Department:** Councilman Dukes states that we have purchased the new 2018 Dodge Charger and that we should have decals and lights installed in about two weeks and the vehicle will be ready to use. No further comments at this time.
- 3. Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Ott has no reports at this time. He reports during the snow that the town did not have any frozen pipes or anything.

4. **Parks & Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship says he doesn't have a lot to report at this time. He says Councilman Banks will meet with the contractors on Saturday about the batting cage/storage unit. He also states that they had soccer and baseball sign up last Saturday and will have sign ups again this coming Saturday.
5. **Project/Events:** Councilman Connelly states he really doesn't have anything to report at this time. In the future he would get with former Councilwoman Bryant and speak with her about her past projects and would hope to have some ideas for the near future.
6. **Buildings & Grounds:** Councilman Oliver states everything is going well and no problems at this time.

Old Business:

1. **CASA-Victim Assistance:** Mayor Dickson reports that at the last council meeting it was discussed and voted upon to issue CASA the percent of monies due from the Victim Assistance program. The amount to be given was 90% of this year's monies collected, but we had to wait until the close of the 2017 financial year for a final figure. The percent to be give is \$6,494.00. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made to motion to give the \$6,494.00 to CASA. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried.
2. **Contract Branchville Concerned Citizens:** Mayor Dickson called on the Town Clerk to read the contract that was prepared for this organization and informed those present that a copy was provided in the council packets they received on Friday. Clerk Connelly read said contract. Council Banks had concerns that the contract did not state what would happen if something was broken or not cleaned, how would you re-coup the losses? Discussion was that it was stated that either party could stop the meetings at any time. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to accept said contract. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

New Business:

1. Councilman Oliver wanted to inform the council that at the last meeting he attended for classes with MASC that there was now a parking fee. Councilman Oliver made a motion that the fee be reimbursed to whomever may take the classes in the future. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.
2. Councilman Connelly asked the council's permission to go and take the class at MASC that was coming up in February. Councilman Connelly made a motion for council to approve the classes. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. Mayor Dickson explained that Tom Jennings name was on the checking accounts and due to fact that he was no longer a councilman that we needed to add a signature on the checking accounts in case one of the other signers was out of town or on vacation and could not be reached. Mayor Dickson made a motion that Frank Ott be nominated. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.
4. Mayor Dickson explained that he received in the mail today, a letter from the Association of SC Mayors. This was not on the agenda, due to him just getting this letter. The cost to join was based upon the population of the town. The cost would be 50.00 per year and that he would like for the council to approve for him to join this association. Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the cost. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Public Comments Agenda: Mrs. Vivian Fogle spoke and wanted to inform the council that she was vice president of the Branchville Concerned Citizens and that she promised that it would be cleaned and taken care of. Mrs. Fogle also wanted to know if Councilman Oliver would be reimbursed for his parking at the last class he attended. Mayor Dickson informed her he would be reimbursed if paperwork was turned in.

Mr. Glen Miller also informed council that the community center would be taken care of when the meetings were held.

Public Comments Other:

Mr. Glen Miller requested that the council use the microphones, and have them fixed so they could hear. Mr. Glen Miller also wanted to know the status on the traffic lights. Mayor Dickson explained that he spoke with Al Jenkins and that we were on the list.

Items for Information: Soccer and baseball sign ups again this coming Saturday, January 13, 2018.

Executive Session: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:45PM.

Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:17 PM. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson called on Councilman Oliver. Councilman Oliver made a motion to keep the same rental amount on the lease contract with Healthplex. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson said the other items discussed in executive session were personnel matters and that we don't have to discuss them at this time.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Town Clerk
Faye Connelly