

Town of Branchville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday March 12, 2018

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, March 12, 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.

Roll call indicated that Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Dukes, Councilman Oliver, Councilman Banks were present. Councilman Ott was absent, had to keep his children as his wife was out of town, and Councilman Connelly was out due to medical reasons.

Welcome of Guest: Mayor Dickson welcomed the guests that were present. On the agenda is Carrie Johnson, the treasurer for the Raylrode Daze Festival. Mrs. Johnson thanked the Mayor and Council for agreeing to let her speak tonight. Mrs. Johnson reminded the council of the Gala event this Sunday. She informed all that this was the 50th Anniversary, and went on to tell about the different events planned for each night. Mrs. Johnson had two requests; the Raylrode Daze Committee would like to use the vacant lot next door to the Churn, for which they would get any legal paper work signed if necessary. The second request was to request that the BYS not schedule any sport event during that time, allowing all children and adults the ability to participate. She also informed everyone that the Beauty Pageant would be held on Saturday, the 19th of May, at 4 PM in Branch Junction. Following the Beauty Pageant there will be a fish fry dinner held from 5-7 pm in the Red Dog Saloon at Branch Junction. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship told Mrs. Johnson that he would speak for BYS, and that they would not hold any games at that time. Mayor Dickson asked that the legal paper be prepared and that he saw no reason why they could not use that area, get paperwork and get back with us. Mrs. Johnson spoke of some advertising that they do and they were looking for some support from the county, Mayor Dickson said he would also speak with them.

Mayor Dickson announced the next guest, Vivian Fogle with Branchville Concerned Citizens. Mrs. Fogle addressed the Mayor and expressed her condolences for the loss of his mother. Mrs. Fogle requested that the Concerned Citizens get something in writing stating they have the use of a building for 2 years. Mr. Glenn Miller assisted Mrs. Fogle with her request. Mr. Miller says that the Concerned Citizens would like something in writing for 2 years, stating they may use the Old Rescue Building for a Farm Market. The Concerned Citizens would like to move forward with getting the fridge equipment in for the market. Mr. Miller goes on to say that the town will not have any cost in this project. They cannot move forward without having an agreement securing a building. Mayor Dickson confirmed that in this agreement that if the market is not up and running in 45 days that the agreement would be void, and if they closed the doors then that would void the agreement also. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to accept these terms. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The agreement will be drawn up when the Concerned Citizens are ready to move forward.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the February 2018 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks requested that the salary be removed from these reports that were given to the public. Mayor Dickson said if anyone requested this information they could come to the town hall and see it, that information was public record. Councilman Banks made motion to exclude the salary from the General Fund Financial reports given to public during the council meetings and the Council would still get all reports as before. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report and remove salary as well. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motion carried. Councilman Banks made a motion to also remove the salary from the Water & Sewer Financial Report. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Council Reports:

- 1. City Hall/ License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports, no new reports at this time. The hours have been changed in the Town Hall. Councilman Banks also commented about an issue with an 811 dig. I sent the council and email informing you of an incident with the maintenance department cutting a phone line during a dig. The 811 dig had expired and I spoke with the employee about this. Wanted to inform everyone that the town could have been fined for this had it not been for the relationship between the phone company that was involved.
- 2. Water/Sewer/Streets:** Mayor Dickson informed the guest that we had 4 bids for the WWTP and that at this time Lower Savannah was confirming that apples was apples, and everything was correct.
- 3. Parks & Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship says they have been playing soccer for about a month now. Baseball and softball starts this weekend. The sports complex is hosting a jamboree this Saturday. He said that 4 teams played last Saturday and that Councilman Dukes played in these games, as part of a fundraiser for the High School. He wants the community to know that the Sports Complex is being used and that they are having a lot of fun in the process. Councilman Banks commented that they wanted all the kids, if cost was a problem please let them know, he said we will find them a sponsor, and get them what they need. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship and Councilman Banks spoke of the new building that was going up at the present time. We have a covered batting and pitching area, for the kids when it is raining.
- 4. Project/Events:** Councilman Connelly out sick nothing at this time.
- 5. Buildings & Grounds:** Councilman Oliver states everything is going well and no problems at this time. We have been replacing lights, and exit signs that were not working.
- 6. Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reported that Chief Clark had spoken with the gentleman about a warranty on the engine. Chief Clark says that the gentleman would not issue any warranty and in his opinion he would not put anything else in this vehicle. The only thing still on this vehicle was the bar lights, all other equipment has been removed. The vehicle is not running at this time. Council discussed scrapping it or getting sealed bids. Councilman Dukes also brought before the other councilmen a request to purchase a battery for a hand held radar device. Councilman Dukes made the motion to purchase the ProLaser III Battery Pack for \$121.00. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Old Business:**1. Classic Road-Southern Fiber**

Mayor Dickson explained that in each council packet there was an invoice from Southern Fiber, the County of Orangeburg will be paying this project just wanted to keep you informed on the project.

New Business:

- 1. Donations/Flowers:** Councilman Banks asked that the council consider setting a set fee for flowers or donations for any employee or councilman in the event that a family member lost a loved one. During council discussion other people in the community were mentioned by council that they would perhaps like to send flowers to. Councilman Banks made a motion to allow donations/flowers in the amount of \$40.00ish and council would have to approve the person by email before anything could be sent. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.
- 2. Christmas Parade:** Councilman Oliver made a motion to have the Christmas Parade on December 16, 2018 at 4:00PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.
- 3. Souvenir Stand:** Councilman Oliver brought before the council a suggestion that the Town of Branchville have a souvenir stand to help offset the cost of the Raylrode Daze Festivul. Mayor Dickson asked him to get with Tom Jennings and discuss and get up some prices and items and bring it back to council.
- 4. Commercial & Industrial Water Rates:** Councilman Oliver reports that all of our rates commercial, industrial and industrial are all the same. I have gathered information from towns close to us and they charge different rates. It is my opinion we should have different rates, for inside the city limits and outside, and perhaps commercial and industrial. Mayor Dickson asked Councilman Oliver to bring those rates back at the next meeting and they would take a look at them and discuss this information.

Public Comments Agenda: Mr. Matthew Henderson wanted to know if the town made any money from the Raylrode Daze Festivul, and if someone was hurt during this event does the Raylrode Daze Festivul have insurance for that and who would have to pay. Mayor Dickson and Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship informed him that we do not make any monies from this event, and that the Town and the Raylrode Daze Festivul both had insurance.

Public Comments Other:

Mr. Glen Miller stated that someone had paved Hunter/Freedom and that 90% of the cars are now scraping the pavement and that an engineer should have been there, because it was a mess now and water was also standing when it rains. Mayor Dickson said he would have this checked out.

Items for Information: Mayor Dickson explained that he had received a letter from SCANA and that their company was going to merge with Dominion Energy. A copy of the letter was on the table as well as a letter from Orangeburg County about a county wide clean-up for anyone interested. Mayor Dickson also informed everyone that a letter had been sent to Senator Scott asking him to please come and be in our parade during Raylrode Daze. In that same letter I requested his assistance on perhaps getting roads in our area reworked.

Councilman Oliver informed everyone that 30 students from Claflin University came and cleaned the old Rescue Squad building. They did a supreme job and afterward the Concerned Citizens group did prepare a meal for them.

Executive Session: Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 8:30PM. Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 8:35 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson explained during executive session that discussion was on continuing using the current accountants, McGregor & Company. Councilman Dukes made a motion to continue to use McGregor & Company. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Town Clerk
Faye Connelly