

Town of Branchville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, February 12, 2018

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, February 12, 2017 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 Pro Tem Blankenship called the meeting to order. Council, along with all those present, stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer.

Roll called indicated that Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Ott, Councilman Dukes, Councilman Oliver, Councilman Banks were present. Mayor Dickson and Councilman Connelly were absent due to medical reasons.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship welcomed the guests.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the January 8, 2017 minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to leave for Executive Session. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, Council left for executive Session at 7:05PM. Upon returning from executive session, Councilman Dukes made a motion to return to the regular council meeting. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. Council returned to meeting at 7:45PM. Councilman Ott made a motion to close 5 current bank accounts and transfer those monies into an existing account and mark as USDA loan. We have monies in different accounts shifting funds and grouping them together. The monies are there, not just in one account. These loans are old loans, nothing new. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship stated that we have loans with Rural Water USDA and Brian Jordan was here to discuss those loans. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship explained that at this time we were under funded for these loans. What we are doing is closing some accounts and grouping them together and will withdraw the under- funded balance of the loans due from an existing CD.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

- 1. CITY HALL/LICENSE/INSURANCE:** Nothing at this time. Discussed insurance last month. The town hall closes for lunch and is closed from 12:00-1:00PM. Due to the office being closed and no one there, I feel it would benefit the town for the Town Hall to be open during lunch. I have spoken with the staff and they are in agreement with opening and they will stagger their lunch. Councilman Banks made a motion to keep Town Hall open during lunch and the staff will stagger lunches. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

2. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes states he has a bid in the amount of 2,100.00 from Thomasson Motor Sports to repair the 2008 Dodge Charger that needs a motor, this was discussed in a previous meeting. Perhaps we could get it fixed and use it as a reserve car for the fourth officer, what is the pleasure of council. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship states as he has before he is in support of the law enforcement in Branchville. It is a fair bid, is this all this car needs? Chief Clark states this is a low mileage motor, miles on motor are \_\_\_\_\_ removing it from a salvage vehicle however; motor itself is good. Chief Clark says he will look into it and make sure nothing else is wrong and that we don't get sour lemons. Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to move forward with repairs when Chief Clark has checked into the motor and if nothing else is needed. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Ott has no reports, everything is fine at this time.
4. **Park & Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports soccer has already started. It is cranking up. March we will be starting the games. The Sports Complex will be hosting tournaments, have several scheduled already. Will get dates to Town Hall so they can be posted on the Town Hall sign. Councilman Banks wanted to know if the Branchville Police Department could make their presence known at the games. Chief Clark said he would schedule that, he would need the dates and times. Councilman Banks will get the dates and times for Chief Clark.
5. **Projects/Events:** No reports at this time, Councilman Connelly is out sick on FMLA.
6. **Buildings & Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports that the only thing that he is aware of is the lights in the Parts Department; the valances have gone bad and they need to be replaced.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship read the Thank You letter from CASA acknowledging they received the check from the Town of Branchville in the amount of \$6,494.00.

#### **New Business:**

1. None at this time.

#### **Public Comments Agenda:**

1. Mr. Byrd requested that we move Executive Session to the bottom of the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship explained that normally it is at the bottom of the Agenda, however; due to Mr. Jordan being here from Florence, South Carolina we were trying to accommodate him.
2. Mrs. Fogle wanted to know how long before tonight did council know that Executive Session was moved to the beginning of the Agenda. That she had to pay a baby sitter. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship informed her that they received their packets on Friday, and that is when they knew. Councilman Ott and the town clerk informed her that the agenda was always posted on the front door and the drive through window on Fridays.

#### **Public Comments Other:**

1. Mr. Glenn Miller says the Council needs to get a better relation with the county. That the kudzu really needed to be cut, the pampas grass and rose bushes at the town hall also needs to be kept. He also stated that dogs running loose was a problem. He had called animal control and they wouldn't help. Ms. Vivian Fogle also spoke of the dog issue. Leash law was spoken of also. Chief Clark says they will enforce the leash law, but when dogs have no ID on the collar you could not prove whose dogs they were.

2. Mr. Glenn Miller also states that he felt like the Town of Branchville should not have to pay for any Raylrode Daze expense in any fashion. That he had noticed it was in the budget. This is no secret, I have always made it clear the town should not have to pay for anything for Raylrode Daze. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship told Mr. Miller we hear you, we may not agree with you, and that he had the right to express his opinion.
3. There was a lady who spoke about how bad her road was and when would it be fixed big pot holes I can fall into. The name of this lady speaking was not understood and we apologize, tape recorder was not clear enough to hear. Councilman Oliver explained the roads were on a rotation plan. Councilman Oliver gave her Henry Summers' name to contact him for help.

**Items for Information:**

1. Councilman Oliver stated that he completed his advanced classes with MASC. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 it was Legislation Day and I was able to meet with our representatives for the Town of Branchville. The Town of Branchville was recognized by Senator Matthews.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Town Clerk  
Faye Connelly