

Town of Branchville  
Regular Council Meeting  
June 12, 2017  
7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on June 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 Dickson called the meeting to order. Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer.

All council was present, Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilwoman Bryant, Councilman Blankenship, Councilman Ott, Councilman Dukes, and Councilman Oliver was present.

**Welcome of Guest:** Was given by Mayor Dickson.

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

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Blankenship 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. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Blankenship second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Mayor Pro Tem Jennings reports no formal report, no issues.
2. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports things running smoothly.
3. **Water, Sewer, Streets:** Councilman Ott reports, water is water, no, everything is running fine in the water department. Councilman Ott states that he has assigned different sections of town to the two maintenance employees. Therefore, he can tell whom is cutting what grass. If you see any area in town that is needing to be cut, please let him know and he will know whom to talk with about that area. He also states that he will be tracking the hours on the lawn mower to make sure that the sections he has divided up between employees was divided equally.
4. **Parks & Rec. Department:** Councilman Blankenship reports that baseball, softball and soccer was a great success. This Thursday they will have 4 teams playing while the Tri County Chamber Commerce meeting is going on. He states that this past Saturday they hosted softball tournament at the complex and that the grounds was left in a mess and he would have to check into that.
5. **Projects/Events:** Councilwoman Bryant reports that she had plans she was working on but was waiting on more information and would get back when she had the details.
6. **Buildings & Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports that they are still working on the Park on Evans Street and should be finished by July. They have completed the doors on the old fire department building. He also reports that the town replaced the pan under the A/C unit at the Railroad Museum. It had leaked and was creating problems.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson reports that the closing of the sale of the Old Lockett School will be this Thursday at 3:00. He will let council know where the signing will be, not sure if at Town Hall or at Williams & Williams, if they would like to attend. The Old Lockett School will be sold to Southern District New Covenant Fellowship, Inc.

**New Business:**

1. **Police Radar:** Councilman Dukes reports that the radar on Captain Cokley's patrol car has gone out. We are in need a radar for that vehicle. Would like to send off the radars that are not working for repairs for the other part time police officers to use in their vehicle which also does not have a working radar. Councilman Dukes made a motion to purchase a radar from Phillips Radar for 1610.00 and return nonworking radars to be repaired. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.
2. **MASC- Information Act:** Councilman Oliver reported that in each council persons packet was information on the Freedom of Information Act. That each council member should read this notice and the changes that were made. This information was obtained when I went to the class that MASC was holding on this topic.
3. **RMC Community Center:** Mayor Dickson reports that RMC would like to use the Community Center for meetings. Present for RMC is Amy Metts and Wayne Hutto. Mayor Dickson calls on Ms. Metts to explain. Ms. Metts thanked the council for allowing them to speak a few words on RMC's behalf. She said that they wanted to hold classes in Branchville for the Diabetes Prevention Program, starting in August. The classes in the beginning would be weekly, then two times a month, then once a month. The building would be in use on Thursday from 4pm-7pm. RMC will bring everything they need and will also do all clean up after themselves. They have six classes going on now in other Towns. They will have an instructor that will teach them the proper things to eat, exercise, etc. Councilman Dukes made a motion to let RMC use the community center. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried.
4. **Lawnmowers:** Councilman Ott states he is looking at purchasing two new lawnmowers. He put it in the budget for this year under Capital Improvements. I have 4 quotes, the one I believe we need to go with cost 15,456.00. This lawnmower has what they call "no wear" tire. They don't go flat, due to their design. John Deere will give us 2700.00 for our two old lawn mowers and the gator. Councilman Ott explains that he will assign a lawnmower to each maintenance employee and will track hours and see whom is doing what to each lawnmower. Councilman Ott made a motion to purchase the new lawnmowers. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.
5. **Experimental Light Project:** Councilman Oliver explains that perhaps we could use solar light for lights on streets that have no lights, if no trees block the lights. The cost would be \$159.00 for the lights, this does not include the pole. Mayor Dickson ask that he select a couple of places and that we would discuss at a later meeting.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Rev. John Green with Upstart Ministries spoke of the purchase of Lockett School. He said that several churches would use this facility for local meetings. That it would be a convention center. That the cafeteria would be turned into a room that would hold old history material of the school and of the town. That in the future there would be a room that could be used by the public.

Mr. Glenn Miller asked Councilman Oliver where the public could buy these solar lights. Councilman Oliver said he would get this information and give to Mr. Miller. Mayor Dickson informed Mr. Miller that the town did not endorse these lights that we haven't tried them out.

Ms. Virginia Fogle asked if the basketball courts at the Old Lockett School could still be used by the public. Rev. Green answered and said that they would have to look at the liability end of this and did not know at this time.

**Public Comments Other:** William Gibbs, a gentleman with Claflin University from Orangeburg was present. He said that they were looking at perhaps putting a food court in this area. That would be fresh fruit, small grocery store. They were gathering information at this time. Dr. Emily Crawford with Claflin University also spoke and said they were just gathering information research at this time. However, without the help from the Town this project would not work, can't do it without the town's help. Mayor Dickson asked her to please exchange business cards before she left and that he looked forward to working with them.

Ms. Virginia Fogle asked about the street signs that were spoken about in a previous meeting. Chief Clark said that he had contacted them and that he had issued the concerns at the signs and they would check into them.

Mr. Glenn Miller asked where do we stand with the ordinance on the clean up with Orangeburg County. Again it was explained if in city limits must come to Town Hall to fill out paper work if in the county would have to contact county.

**Items for Information:** Councilman Oliver informed that Tri-County Health Network was hosting a program June 15<sup>th</sup> at Canaan Baptist Church. The topic Program to help churches improve the health of their congregations and the community. Also, the Carolina Brotherhood Ride is this Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. They are riding to honor Firefighters and Police Officers. They will be coming though Branchville and wanted to know if we would share this information by putting this on the town sign. Councilman Oliver made a motion to place on sign. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson informed the meeting that the light was out on the sign coming into Branchville from Orangeburg. Councilman Oliver said that light was replaced when the signs were put back up and that someone was damaging the lights.

Ms. Vivian Fogle informed the town that a tree fell on the trailer of Dean Gadson and Constance Colter. She was asking for help for them, if the town or anyone could help clean up this property, perhaps the use of some trucks, anything would be appreciated.

Councilman Oliver wanted everyone to know the Famers Market here in town opened on June 5<sup>th</sup> and would be open until sometime in September, Hours are 9:30-4:00 pm on Saturdays.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to leave for Executive Session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried left at 7:48 PM.

Councilman Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting. Councilman Ott second the motion, motioned carried. Floor was turned over to Councilman Blankenship. He reported he had bids to build a storage building/batting cage at the sports complex for \$50,398.00 with the

remaining penny monies. Councilman Blankenship made a motion that F.E. Gaskins build the said building. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson spoke of the Tri-County Regional Chamber Business After Hours. He invited each to come out to the sports complex, on June 15, 2017 at 6:00PM. While in executive session the council agreed to purchase the French Fries, Drinks, and Buns for the event. Councilman Blankenship made the motion to purchase said items. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilman Oliver to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned 8:15PM.

Town Clerk  
Faye Connelly