Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday November 12, 2018

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, November 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 called indicated that all council was present except Councilman Ott, who was absent.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed the guests as well as the citizens to the meeting. Mayor Dickson addressed our first guest, Shanika Aiken with Lockett Elementary School. She is an Early Childhood Coordinator. Ms. Aiken thanked the council for their time in allowing her to address them. We have just started a program called Save the Children. I am here to ask that you support this program for the children, by getting the word out. This program helps children be ready for school. The children develop the language and pre-literacy skills that are essential for school success. Parents learn how to support their child’s language development and pre-literacy education. Parents of very young children need skills and knowledge to foster their child’s development. By providing children from birth to age five with quality, caring early learning experiences, parents can help prepare their children for a smooth transition to school. We visit homes two times a month, and we meet with parents once a month. We need your help to spread the news about this program. Mayor Dickson said if you will get us some information we will be glad to email it to our Ministerial Alliance group.

Mayor Dickson addresses our second guest tonight, Mike Dennis with the Dawn Center. Mr. Dennis says this is a new program, what they would like to do is install a drop box to dispose of medications. The drop box must be bolted to the floor or wall, we will assume all cost. There will be no cost to the town. Anyone can come in and placed any unused medications in the drop box. When it gets full, your staff can call for a pick up. If it takes a month, or several months to fill the drop box, that is not a problem. Mayor Dickson asked if this program was here to stay, he had concerns about bolting to the floor or wall and then this program ends, we then have bolts to deal with. Mr. Dennis explained the box would be here to stay, unless the town wanted it removed. This program makes the environment safer, children can’t get to unused meds, making it safer for our children. Our company will make up flyers, advertise this location in the paper if permission is granted. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to allow this drop box to be installed. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained that in our packets we received a schedule for our 2019 Council Meeting to be held the second Monday of each month at 7:00PM. What is the council’s pleasure? Councilman Connelly made a motion to accept this schedule. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Connelly 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 Connelly made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Dukes second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: Everything is good, nothing else to report.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: Going good right now, we have had a couple of hiccups, but worked past them. I am meeting with the maintenance employees the first of every month. We are moving forward.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: We are done with football, we have a small break right now. We will crank up in January with baseball, soccer, and cheerleaders.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Connelly reports for Councilman Ott who is absent. We have another Senior Safety Meeting scheduled for November 27, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Community Center. He spoke of the success of the last event, and thanked Councilman Oliver for his help in that event. Councilman Oliver and Councilman Connelly spoke of the material covered. There are some flyers on the table, please take one and share this information and come out and join us for this next event.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: Everything is going pretty good. We do have a broken window at the Healthplex. I have a bid for that repair, the cost is $254.34. I make a motion to accept this bid and have the window replaced. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. I also have a bid on the railing at the Healthplex, but in my opinion it is high and I would like to get other bids. Mayor Dickson told him to contact him and he would get him a name.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Had a good month, the report is for two months. Everything is going well.

**Old Business:**

1. None at this time.

**New Business:**

1. None at this time.

**Public Comments Agenda:** Mr. Glenn Miller commented on the hand rails, make sure you get a letter from the company, saying they will stand by it, that OSHA will require this. If you can find out who installed the rails entering town hall, they did issue this letter. Mr. Miller also complemented the military display. It really looks good and I don’t know of any other town that has this display.

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Miller had some concerns about the letter that was sent out explaining the water procedure. He says the procedures was not clear enough. After explaining again, Councilman Connelly said he would issue another letter and the procedures would be explained and clear.

**Items for Information:** Christmas Parade will be December 16th at 4:00PM. Flyers are on the table for Senior Safety Night.

Mayor Dickson said before we go into Executive Session one thing needed to be added was the Freight Depot.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Dukes made a motion to go to Executive Session. Council Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:35PM.

Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 7:50PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson explained that during the Executive Session that the Christmas Bonus was discussed and that he would get with Clerk Connelly for that matter. Personnel Matters can’t be discussed at this time. Concerning the Victim Assistance, we had an audit in the past. Monies was behind in the Victim Assistance account due to past leadership, we were able to catch that account up. The discussion was whether to give the monies to Orangeburg County or not, we have decided to keep the monies ourselves so we can control who we send the monies to. The discussion on the town building. We had an individual come to us about that building, however due to prior talks on this building we have decided to table at this time until the first of the year. The last thing that was discussed during the session was the Old Freight Depot. We are supposed to have the penny monies the first of the year and we need to have things ready to move forward. We discussed getting an Architect to starting drawing up some plans. We will search out possible schools or colleges whom does Architectural Classes first, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship has some connections, we will try this first. If those do not work out then we will seek an Architect, we need a motion to move forward. Councilman Connelly made a motion. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Faye Connelly

Town Clerk