Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2019

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the exterior bulletin board 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 council present was Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship, Councilman Dukes, Councilman Oliver, and Councilman Banks. Absent was Councilman Connelly, Councilman Ott.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present and then turned over the meeting to Nick Rubin with SCRWA. Mr. Rubin’s department with SCRWA is Source Water and GIS. The reason I am here tonight is to see if the town wishes to participate in a source water program. This program’s cost to the town is nothing, it is covered under a grant. The purpose is to assist in the development of a grassroots stakeholder driven process with the ultimate goal of protecting the source of drinking water. By initiating a source water protection program with the assistance of SCRWA, the utility or community works together to guarantee clean, abundant drinking water at the source, which acts to reduce treatment costs, can help boost economic development and encourages community engagement and education. Council had several questions for Mr. Rubin. The council requested that if possible they would like to see a report he had done for another town. The councilman over that department is absent tonight due to being hospitalized, and he really needs to be in on this; he is a very hands on person with that department. Perhaps you could get us a report and possibly return to another council meeting. Mr. Rubin said, I would need to get permission from another town to be able to release that report. I will look into it and email it to the clerk and perhaps we can go from there.

Council approved hours for Halloween Trick or Treat would be from 6-9 PM, unanimously. The 2020 budget work session date will be November 7, 2019 at 7:00PM, which was also unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the General Fund Financial report. Councilman Banks 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 Dukes second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. **City Hall/License/Insurance:** Councilman Banks reports: I will be seeking again the cost of insurance to see if we have any other options. Everything is going well. I had the town clerk check to see if water and garbage collection could be billed if someone only had one or the other, and yes it can be.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: No report at this time due to councilman not present.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: It has been a busy time with soccer, football and the two fund raiser tournaments. In a couple of weeks things will slow down again.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Ott reports: No report at this time councilman not present.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: Everything going good, nothing to report.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Everything is running smoothly. Councilman Banks and Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship complemented Officer Jerome Felder for getting out and speaking with people and being friendly.

**Old Business:**

Councilman Oliver discussed the lights on Buttes Road. It is a safety issue. This street is dark, not safe for our officers or the residents with no lights present. Since Dominion Energy has taken over we can get 8 LED lights up with the residents giving up permission to place on their property. Dominion says they will do all the leg work pertaining to these lights. Mayor Dickson asked if all the monies has to be paid at once. If so, we probably would need to take this into consideration with next year’s budget. Councilman Oliver is to speak with Dominion about payment types and bring back to council. Wanted to let council know our Christmas Party is December the 3rd and the Fire Department’s Christmas Dinner is also on that date. Council asked to see if we could perhaps change our date to December 16 or the 17th.

**New Business:**

1. None at this time.

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Glenn Miller wanted to know how someone could get a smoke alarm. Councilman Oliver told him to contact the Fire Department, they would get him what he needed.

Mr. Miller also asked about the streetscapes program and what remaining lights were supposed to be done. Mayor Dickson explained that those monies were closed out. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship said that there was not enough funds left to do the remaining work on the lights. Mr. Miller also wanted to know about the paving of the highways and what about the stoplights? Mayor Dickson said the paving was scheduled for 2020 and that he hoped that the red lights will be done with the bid for the road work out here.

**Items for Information:** Nothing at this time.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Dickson said we need to go into Executive Session for personnel matters. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session at 7:42PM. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Dukes made a motion to return to regular council meeting at 8:05. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded motion, motion carried. Mayor Dickson informed Chief Clark to move forward with the discussion during Executive Session.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made unanimously to adjourn meeting 8:06 PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly