Town of Branchville

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, November 11, 2019

7:00 PM

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Monday, November 11th, 2019 at 7:00 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 that Mayor Dickson, Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship and Councilmen Ott, Dukes, and Oliver were present. Councilman Connelly is in the hospital and Councilman Banks was absent.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present and thanked them for coming.

Mayor Dickson informed the council that we did get the date changed for the Staff’s Christmas Meal to December 17, 2019 at 7:00PM. In your packets you received some letters. The first is information on the 90% of revenue we have to contribute to some type of victim assistance. The letter explains what needs to be done. I ask the council to think on this and if you know anyone they must complete some paperwork to receive said funds. Also you received in your packets a letter from SCDNR about the water plan for the Edisto basin. They are holding two public meeting November 18th in Blackville, SC and November 21 in St. George if anyone is interested. He also ask to have this placed on the bulletin board for the public. The other letter you received was from LSCOG. This event was held in October, we didn’t get a copy of the letter in time. The final item is a letter from the Mayors and Councils of the Low Country. House Bill H4431 will reduce business licenses taxes. This reduction will not impact some towns as much as others. Need to know the pleasure of the Council? Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion that Gov. McMaster refuse to sign Bill H4431. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the October 14, 2019 minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship 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. Councilman Ott seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship 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: No report, not present.
2. **Water/Sewer/Streets:** Councilman Connelly reports: No report, not present.
3. **Parks/Recreation:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports: All the seasons are over, we had a successful year. We are having an appreciation meal this Thursday for them. We will have a little time off, then back in January.
4. **Projects/Events:** Councilman Ott reports: We did have the health fair day. As for any other plans, none now.
5. **Buildings/Grounds:** Councilman Oliver reports: No problems at this time.
6. **Police Department:** Councilman Dukes reports: Good month, no problems. Captain Cokley will return from medical leave at the end of December.

**Old Business:**

1. Councilman Oliver spoke with Dominion and yes, they will accept installments on the cost of lights on Butts Road. After discussion Councilman Oliver made a motion we move forward the lights on Butts Road. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson asked, why don’t we wait and see about doing this in next year’s budget. Councilman Ott says we have the monies in this year’s budget. Mayor Dickson said we will talk about this in the next Budget meeting we have scheduled for November 19, 2019. We will do it, we will decide if this year or put in installment payments for next year.

**New Business:**

1. None

**Public Comments Agenda:** None

**Public Comments Other:** Mr. Glenn Miller thanked those responsible for the water leak repair to Hunter and George Street. An outside company came and took care of it. I also have a sewer line problem at 7709 Freedom Road and would like to see that situation taken care of but I don’t guess we have anyone who can answer that. Clerk Connelly spoke up and informed Mr. Miller that an 811 Dig had already been called in. That the maintenance department was shorthanded and just as soon as the property was cleared by the responders that a call would be placed to the same people who repaired the water leak would be assisting with this. They have full time jobs and we will move forward just as soon has everything is cleared to proceed.

Mrs. Betty Glover congratulated those whom had won the election. Back when the storm came through I had a tree fall and would like to ask if the maintenance department could use their backhoe and just push the tree into the woods for me? Mayor Dickson asked if there were any power lines or anything in the way. Mrs. Glover’s reply was no. Mayor Dickson said let us look at it. He suggested that perhaps the Fire Department would cut it up. Greg, could you check on that and then perhaps we could use the backhoe to help dispose.

**Items for Information:**

**Executive Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 7:30PM. Councilman Dukes made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 7:50. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motioned carried. Mayor Dickson said during Executive Session the discussion was to allow Mr. Charles Halsey permission to use the Farmers Market for some produce products or not. Mr. Halsey will set up 6 days with approximately 40 items of produce at no cost to him at this time. We will speak with him again in the new year to discuss again. The personnel matter I will get with Clerk Connelly to discuss later.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52PM.

Town Clerk

Faye Connelly