Town of Branchville

Mayor H. Franklin Dickson, Presiding

Regular Council Meeting

October 12, 2020

The regular Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on October 12, 2020 at 7 PM at the

Town Hall. A notice with the time, date and place of the meeting was posted on the Bulletin board at 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 Dukes who joined after the roll call.

**Welcome of Guest:** Was given by Mayor Dickson. Mayor Dickson then turned the meeting over to Principal Charles Gregory. He introduced Mrs. Debra Norman. Principal Gregory informed those present that the Elementary School started today. The students will split days at school. One group would attend Monday & Tuesday the other half would attend school Wednesday and Thursdays and the remaining days would be virtual schooling for all the students at home. No decision has been made at this time for the High School. Plexi-glass has been installed at desks and tables, masks or face shields must be worn. Social distancing will be followed, hallways and rest rooms will be monitored. We do have a playoff for volley ball in 2 weeks. We wanted to keep you informed as to how we are trying to recover from the Covid-19 circumstances. Council thanked them for coming and for the information they had provided.

Mayor Dickson then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Lori Salley for the 2019 Audit results. Mrs. Salley went over the past year’s audit explaining different items and answered any questions the council had. She thanked the office staff and complimented them on such good work. Council thanked her for her report.

Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made a motion in name only for the 2021 Budget. The first meeting is to be held October 26, 2020. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained in the packets you received over the weekend you now have the remaining balances of the 3rd penny monies that had to be used by the end of the year.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to approve the September 2020 minutes. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Jumper made a motion to accept the Special Meeting minutes as received. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Councilman Banks made the motion to approve the General Fund

Financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Municipal Court financial report. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Oliver made the motion to approve the Water and Sewer financial report. Councilman Jumper second the motion, motion carried.

**Council Reports:**

1. Councilman Banks reports that he has one company that has issued a quote for health insurance.Don’t know if anyone can compete with the building coverage, liability insurance. That is all for this time.
2. Councilman Oliver reports for water & sewer that the water leaks on Evans Street have been repaired. We have also installed a drive way alert for the drive through window at the Town Hall.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship reports for Parks & Recreation not a lot going on right now. We did host the tournament and wanted to thank those who helped. We had good help and I want everyone to know that the Complex is totally run on volunteers. The money raised during the tournaments is the way we support the complex and we are grateful for the support of all. We are working on some projects with penny monies. The grounds look great, better than they ever have been.
4. Councilman Jumper reports for Project & Events everything going good really nothing at this time.
5. Councilman Oliver reports on Building & Grounds everything is good. Mayor Dickson asked if he had heard anything back on the cameras yet. Councilman Oliver says that Emily is getting up prices for the cameras for the building waiting on those.
6. Chief Clark reports that they are waiting on an agreement to be able assist Principal Gregory with Police at the high school games. Mayor Dickson explained to council that Principal Gregory was working with the county however he was trying to save some money per hour and had asked if Branchville would be interested or not.

**Old Business:**

1. Mayor Dickson asked Councilman Oliver if he had spoken with Chief at the Fire Department

to see if they would help us hang our Christmas Lights? Chief Steiner said yes, he would.

2. Mayor Dickson said they would discuss the Waste Management contract during executive session.

**New Business:**

1. None

**Public Comments Agenda:** Councilman Banks said that it looks like the council is a bunch of hypocrites. I say that because it was voted upon to wear masks, yet now it has been voted to let kids trick or treat. Mayor Dickson explained if you want to participate leave your light on, if you want your children to go trick or treat take them. If you don’t want to participate leave your light off and keep your children at home. You don’t have to participate if you don’t want to. Discussion back and forth with different council members, end result your choice to participate or not.

**Public Comments Other:** Mrs. Betty Glover was upset that the town did not notify her that the town was working on the water lines and that her water was cut off. Councilman Oliver explained that she didn’t need to boil her water due to the fact that the water was not completely turned off, the water was not contaminated. Mrs. Glover said it was contaminated, she saw sewerage. Councilman Oliver explained it couldn’t be, we were working on water line not sewer line. Councilman Oliver questioned her as well as other councilmen, but they could not get a direct answer as to where she saw this. Mrs. Glover then spoke of other properties that we could not get a physical address or name from her, as well as the town should have informed they were cutting water off. Clerk Connelly tried to tell Mrs. Glover the reason that she advised her to boil the water was to be on the safe side.

**Items for Information:** None at this time.

**Executive Session:**

Councilman Jumper made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting. Councilman Oliver second the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson asked Councilman Jumper to explain the quote for Aronson Awning. Councilman Jumper made a motion to accept the quote for $2,148.67 to install the awning at the drive thru window at Town Hall and funds would come from the 3rd penny monies. Councilman Banks seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Dickson explained the contractual matters was concerning the G3S Architecture and different dates for different meetings. Proposals back from the contractors November 12, 2020. Last day for questions from the contractors November 5, 2020. Pre-bid meetings with contractors October 27, 2020. Provided contractors completed proposal documents October 22, 2020 and will meet with Town Council to review final construction documents October 19, 2020.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned 9:04PM.

Faye Connelly

Town Clerk