Town of Branchville

Special Council Meeting

Mayor Franklin Dickson Presiding

Thursday, July 15th, 2021

6:30 PM

The special Council Meeting for the Town of Branchville was held on Thursday, July 15th, 2021 at 6:30 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, Councilman Oliver, Councilman Jumper and Councilman Connelly were present. Councilmen Dukes, Banks and Mayor Pro Tem Blankenship were absent.

**Welcome of Guest:** Mayor Dickson welcomed those present. County Administrator Harold Young and Orangeburg County Councilman Mac McCaster came to speak with council in Executive Session.

Before going into Executive Session, Mayor Dickson announced that he had been in contact with Richard Hall, the Community Development Director for Orangeburg County. Branchville used to be partnered with Orangeburg County’s Flood Damage Prevention Program, but it had not renewed since 1988. This means that we will have to do a new ordinance and sign an intergovernmental agreement with Orangeburg to join the program. Mayor Dickson asked for a motion to rejoin Orangeburg’s Flood Damage Prevention Program, and for the ordinance in name only. Councilman Oliver made the motion, Councilman Connelly seconded, motion carried.

**Executive Session:** Councilman Oliver made a motion to go to Executive Session. Councilman Connelly seconded the motion, motion carried. Council left at 6:33 PM. Councilman Connelly made the motion to return to the regular Council Meeting at 7:18 PM. Councilman Jumper seconded the motion, motioned carried.

Mayor Dickson explained that during Executive Session Council discussed water projects with Mr. Young and Councilman McCaster. Orangeburg has helped the town many times over the years with putting in water lines, such as the one that is being put in now at the hemp farm off Highway 21. The Town owes over 2.7 million from previous loans from USDA. Previously the payments had been made by the county, but that money will be exhausted by the end of the year. If we have not sold the water system by that time we will need to make up that payment by raising the water rates. Max Parrish from the South Carolina Rural Water Association has agreed to conduct a needs analysis study at no cost to the town to determine where we can go with the water rates. DHEC will also do their own analysis for the management of the system. After the needs analysis has been done we will have a public hearing to announce the findings.

**Adjournment**: Motion was made by Councilman Jumper to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Clerk of Court

Emily Maynard