

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH
Regular Meeting
October 4, 2023
7:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Branchville Borough Council has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof sent to the New Jersey Herald.

FLAG SALUTE was led by Councilman VanStone.

ROLL CALL was conducted by Deputy Clerk Braun. Present were Council Members Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr, and Bellis. Absent: Bathgate. Also present were Mike Clune, Norman Card and Tania Bansemer.

PROCLAMATION – None.

Approval of minutes:
September 6, 2023

Motion to approve September 6, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – None

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to enter public session. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Mike Clune discussed the Halloween Parade at the Branchville Firehouse. Would like Railroad Ave closed Tuesday, October 31, 2023 between the hours of 5pm-9pm. Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve road closure. Roll Call Vote: Aye- Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Mike Clune would like to have purchased 2 gallons of red paint to finish maintenance on tennis courts with a cost of \$ 225.00. Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve purchase. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Mike Clune mentioned that the Tennis courts are in need of 2 new nets. Will need to forward to the budget committee.

Mike Clune discussed discrepancies with the sewer manhole numbers in relation to the GPS software. Richard Gottemoller, Lift Station personnel would like to correct the numbering on mislabeled manholes. He would also like to provide a training plan for sewer operator. A motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Orr to allow Richard Gottemoller to correct the manhole numbers and provide training not to exceed \$ 320.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Mike Clune asked if the Borough was going to replace the Code Enforcement officer. Mr. Valenti stated that the current Zoning Officer should be able to perform the duties. Will be addressed with personnel.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to Close Mill Street and Broad Street and Railroad Ave and Broad Street for Halloween Treat or Treating on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 3:30 – 5:30 with hiring 2 sheriffs. Letter to go to Selective with road closure.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve a facility use agreement by the United Methodist Church for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Resolution: # 26-2023 A Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Orr to authorize the submission of the grant application with the NJDOT for the Rossmore Avenue and Prospect Street project straw voted on 9-22-2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Orr to open the public hearing on **Ordinance # 06-2023** BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE.

No comments.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Orr to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VaStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Councilman Orr moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilman Doremus to open the public hearing on **Ordinance # 07-2023**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE AMENDING THE CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED "LEAD

BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS”. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Comments: 125.00 fee was discussed. Check with construction to possibly lower the amount

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Doremus to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis that **ORDINANCE 07-2023** pass on second reading.

After a discussion, the 1st motion to approve **ORDINANCE 07-2023** was rescinded by Councilman Doremus and tabled until next month. Motion was made by Councilman Bellis to rescind the second motion to pass and table for consideration next month. Have a conversation with the construction official about lowering the fee and insert the fee schedule in draft of the ordinance for next month.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to table **Tier B to Tier A Ordinance** packet until next month. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve for first reading **ORDINANCE # 15-2023**, ORIDINACE TO PROVIDE THE BOROUGHS PORTION OF THE FRANKFORD/BANCHVILLE REGIONAL DETENTION BASIN PROJECT WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE WITH ADDITIONAL WORDING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND/OR FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN for 20,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Comments from Council

Councilman Bellis was asked to check a complaint that someone was sleeping out in a tent at 24 Churchill Road. Councilman Bellis spoke to the home owner, Karen Utter and she stated that this person was staying in the basement and not outside in a tent.

A motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Doremus to approve the estimate in the amount of 2,280.00 to DenHeyer Electric to install LED bulbs and to remove ballast from fixtures at the DPW garage. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Doremus to authorize Troy Orr contact the State official in regards to State signage posted to the Reservoir property owned by the Borough. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve the proposals for the valve replacement in the Borough for

1. Bob Viersma & Sons in the amount of \$ 6,475.00 and
2. Capital Supply in the amount of \$ 3,171.90.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Bellis to add an insert with the water bills explaining the water increase. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None

Motion was made by Councilman VanStone, seconded by Councilman Doremus to table the fuel tank/gas card discussion at the DPW garage until next month. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to allow Tom Accetta to place a plaque on the bench in front of the barbershop in

the Borough at his own expense. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Comments from Mayor Frato for the Christmas Party, Bentley and Selective change to yearly water and OEM event road closure to be tabled until next month.

Councilman VanStone mentioned that Jim Ayres contacted him and Frankford has interest in purchasing both sections of the Reservoir.

Mr. Valenti received a mailing for a class action suit for investments made in CDs in 2007-2010. The Borough does not invest in CDs and this class action suit does not apply to Branchville Borough.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Orr to enter executive session for the portion of discussion concerning pending, threatened litigation. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

Attorney Valenti has the audio from this executive session.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to return to regular session. Roll Call Vote:

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Doremus they were ordered paid after being properly audited, paid out of correct account and subject to the availability. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

(List of bills follows minutes)

On motion of Councilwomen Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Doremus, the meeting was adjourned. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None.

A straw vote was taken after Council adjourned to allow \$ 200.00 for flowers to be sent to the funeral home for Kenneth Leissler.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Doremus, Whitesell, VanStone, Orr and Bellis. Nay – None. Absent – Bathgate. Abstain – None

Karen Braun- Deputy Clerk