

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 13, 2008
7:00 O'CLOCK

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Alderpersons Ashby, Lee, Prewett, Whittington, Atty. Tom Arceneaux, Dave Cherry, David Yeates, Debra Smith, Town Clerk, and various citizens.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Lee.
Invocation given by Prewett.

Questions and Statements of Citizens:

Mrs. Roy concerned with high grass and health issues next door to her residence on Sand Valley. Council informed her that Town would take care of issues.

Mrs. Simolke asked if people next to potential annexation area could sign petition as well. Council informed her as long as the property touches the incoming property, then signatures would be allowed.

Motion by Lee to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2008. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS

STREET LIGHTS FOR NORTHWOOD HILLS MAILBOXES

Vickie Tucker with the Northwood Hills Homeowner's Association asked for additional lights. Council stated poles are coordinated with SWEPCO to be not less than 200 feet or more than 250 feet from mailboxes. The lights are within those limits for that area. Northwood could install additional lights, but at their expense.

NORTHWOOD TRACE

Kelly Poole asked for an additional entrance into Northwood Trace because of traffic congestion. Ken Lawler of E & L Development stated he was not opposed to an extra entrance, but he thought homeowners wanted a limit. The Council recommends Mrs. Poole gather a consensus with other homeowners and report the findings to E & L Development.

DRIVE WAY PERMITS

Proposed Motion Regarding Parish Driveway Permits—from May 13, 2008,- forward; No building permits shall be issued by the Town of Blanchard to any applicant without proof of compliance that the applicant has satisfied all parish requirements for driveway permits and a copy of driveway permit attached to be kept on file at Town Hall. Motion made by Lee, second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Proposed Motion Regarding Compliance with Parish Road Requirements—That on or before June 30, 2008, all developers of Northwood Trace Subdivision shall provide the Town of Blanchard written evidence that all roads in the subdivision have satisfied the requirements and specifications of Caddo Parish for roads. Motion made by Lee, second by Whittington. All voted yea.

POKE SALAD POLICY

Whittington requests the record to show "I do regret and I am sorry for losing my temper, but not for getting mad over what happened."

RESCIND AUTHORITY GIVEN 2/13/07 BY COUNCIL TO ASHBY

Motion made by Whittington, second by Prewett to rescind the authority given to Ashby in the 2/13/07 meeting to take any action necessary to correct the sewer situation. All voted yea.

RESOLUTION NO 5 OF 2008

RESOLUTION 5 OF 2008

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE OF RATES
FOR USE OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15.2 OF THE CODE
OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD
REGULATING THE WATER DEPARTMENT, AND
OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Section 15.2 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Blanchard permits the Mayor and the Board of Alderpersons ("Governing Body") to exercise general control of the municipal water department; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that it is necessary to establish a schedule of rates to be charged each residence, commercial, or industrial establishment which is connected to and utilizing the municipal water system; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that the following schedule of rates be established and charged to each residence, commercial, or industrial establishment which is connected to and utilizing the municipal water system:

Industrial shall mean any location of place or business whose primary function is the creation or manufacture of products or materials, either for direct consumption or for further processing:

\$ 120.99 Flat rate plus \$ 5.42/1,000 NO LIMIT

Inside Town Limits

Commercial shall mean any location or place of business whose primary function is the selling of goods or services:

\$ 45.00 Flat rate up to 2,000
\$ 2.92/1,000 from 2,000—10,000
\$ 3.76/1,000 from 10,000—20,000
\$ 4.40/1,000 OVER 20,000

Outside Town Limits

Commercial: \$ 55.00 Flat rate up to 2,000
\$ 3.51/1,000 from 2,000—10,000
\$ 4.40/1,000 from 10,000—20,000
\$ 5.03/1,000 OVER 20,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Governing Body of the Town that:

- Section 1. The foregoing schedule of rates be hereby established and kept on file in the office of the clerk.
- Section 2. This resolution shall become effective June 2008 billing.
- Section 3. All other resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Lee, seconded by Prewett to adopt Resolution 5 of 2008. All voted yea.

RESOLUTION NO 6 OF 2008

RESOLUTION 6 OF 2008 (AMENDED BUDGET)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2007-2008.

Amended Budget Accounts for the year 2007-2008 to read as follows:

REVENUES GENERAL FUND

Taxes	84,900
Insurance License	16,800
Interest Revenue	5,725
Fines	92,500
Witness Fees	200
Other Revenue	13,000
Building Permits	15,000
Sales Tax	126,000
Mowing	2,000
Transfer In/Utility	1,000
Transfer in House	2,500
T. H. Rental	16,600

EXPENSES GENERAL FUND

Officials SS Benefits	200
Print Minutes	5,400
Dues & Subscriptions	4,000
Conference Expense	4,500
Expenses Paid by Sales Tax	6,300

EXPENSES POLICE DEPT

Salaries	170,000
Police Chief Salary	44,600
Emp. Benefits-Retirement	23,600
Emp. Benefits-Health Ins.	51,000
Auto Expense	26,700
Commun. Radio	1,800
Equip & Supplies	8,000
Education	1,500
Capital Expense	35,000
Fine Expense	15,000

EXPENSES GARBAGE	100,000
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EXPENSES BLDG. & GROUNDS

Capital Outlay	20,800
Maintenance	10,500
Mowing Expense	7,150

TOWN HALL EXPENSES

Library Util. & Main.	2,500
Tennis Courts	500
Town Hall Utilities	8,800

BLANCHARD WATER DEPT REVENUES

Water Sales	1,590,000
Other Water	2,700
Interest Revenue	34,000
Misc	8,000
Sale of Assets	800
Trans In from Util CD Cap	165,000
Security Fee	19,000
Pilot Study	100,000

WATER EXPENSES

Office Supplies	8,800
Legal & Audit	21,200
Computer Cost & Maint.	30,000
Salaries	483,000
Occup. License	5,250
Maint. & Supplies	179,000
Chemical Expense	138,000
Auto Expense	33,200
Utilities	68,600
Dues & Subscriptions	5,000
Dottie System	1,500
Training & Safety	5,300
Conference	4,000
Note Debt Interest	166,000
Bonding Fees & Charges	1,675

Lease Pmts (Generator)	36,879
Insurance G/L	79,000
Insurance W/C	17,150
Employee Benefits-Med	105,000
Operating Transfer to GF	0
Pilot Study	35,000

BLANCHARD SEWER DEPT REVENUES

Sewer Permits	4,800
Security Fee	5,600
Interest Revenues	3,500
Transfer In from Utility Imp.	131,000

SEWER EXPENSES

Office Supplies/Postage	700
Maint.	60,000
Chemicals	3,300
Lab Fees	2,300
Insurance G/L	20,200
Insurance W/C	5,550
Employee Benefits-Med	6,300
Employee Benefits-FICA	6,900
Copy Machine Expense	3,500
Uniforms	800

Motion made by Lee, seconded by Whittington to adopt Resolution 6 of 2008. All voted yea.

APPROVE SENDING AMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 2007-08 AND WATER BUDGET FOR 2008-09 (DRAFT) TO BALAR

Motion made by Lee to send Amended Budget for FY 2007-08 and Water Budget for FY 2008-09 (DRAFT) to Balar. Second by Prewett. All voted yea.

MOTION TO INCREASE WATER BILLING TO 7% EFFECTIVE JULY 2008-2013

Motion made by Ashby to defer this matter to June 2008 meeting, second by Whittington. All voted yea.

CREATE POSITION OF UTILITY BILLING MANAGER/ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER

Motion made by Whittington to create the position of Utility Billing Manager/Assistant Bookkeeper. Second by Lee. Ashby excused self from vote. All voted yea.

APPOINT JENNIE ASHBY AS UTILITY BILLING MANAGER/ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER

Motion made by Whittington, second by Lee to appoint Jennie Ashby as Utility Billing Manager/Assistant Bookkeeper to include \$ 1.50 hour raise. Ashby excused self from vote. All vote yea.

ORDINANCE 4 OF 2008—TITLE ONLY (TOWN CLERK RAISE)

Lee introduced Ordinance 4 of 2008 by title only to be considered for adoption at the June 10, 2008 council meeting.

ORDINANCE 4 OF 2008

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3.8 OF THE CODE
OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, LOUISIANA
ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED
OFFICIALS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

AMEND AGENDA TO INCLUDE RESOLUTION # 7 OF 2008

Motion made by Lee, second by Whittington to add Resolution # 7 of 2008 at end of agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Ashby, Lee, Prewett and Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO 7 OF 2008 (OPPOSE SPEED TRAP BILL)

RESOLUTION 7 of 2008

A RESOLUTION TO PROTEST LEGISLATION RESTRICTING REVENUE GENERATED FROM
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, state law grants municipalities the ability to patrol and enforce violations of state and municipal laws, including criminal violations involving the speeds in excess of posted speed limits committed on state highways, parish roads and municipal streets located within the jurisdictions of the respected municipalities, and

WHEREAS, state law provides that municipalities may assess penalties in the form of fines against any driver violating any provision of Title 32 and that law requires those fines collected to be deposited into the treasury of the municipality for its discretionary use, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of municipalities in the State of Louisiana expect its police departments to protect the public safety of its citizens by enforcing the criminal laws of the State of Louisiana including those involving violations involving excessive speed, and

WHEREAS, HB 1329 has been introduced in the 2008 Regular Legislative Session which, among its various provisions, restricts the amount of revenue a municipality may generate for its general budget based upon population and requiring any overages to go directly to the state's general budget and prohibits municipalities from issuing traffic citations on interstate roads and state highways in their jurisdictions with "minimal" commercial and residential developments, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Municipal Association discourages municipalities from using fines from traffic violations as a main source of revenue, but understands the need for these revenues due to restrictions placed upon municipalities by the legislature which makes it difficult to generate revenues to provide basic services for its citizens and is concerned about the negative impact on public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Blanchard on this 13th day of May, 2008 states its strong opposition to HB 1329 and is concerned about the effect this legislation will have on the public safety and welfare of its citizens and those law-abiding drivers traveling along the roads located inside municipalities as well as the potential loss of revenue that could be experienced by municipalities which could result in the lessening of public safety protection.

Motion made by Whittington, second by Prewett. Record to show Lee excused self from voting. All voted yea.

Resolution 7 of 2008 was adopted this 13th day of May, 2008.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

Buildings and grounds: Whittington reported cameras installed and working great.

Streets and Rights of Way: List of roads to be overlaid submitted, but some may be cut.

Water Department: Prewett reported everything running good.

Sewer Department: Ashby reported sewer plant needs to expand due to growing area. Hepatitis series shots should be for everyone involved with sewer.

Police Department: Chief Presswood reported staying busy but usually solves problems. Big thank you to Lt. Mark Terry with Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department.

Treasurer Report: Lee reported Audit quotes received from Dees and Stevens for 2007-2008.

Motion by Ashby, second by Whittington to accept Stevens as new auditor. All voted yea.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR:

Mayor Pro Tem Jones expressed condolences to Barbara Kent's family. Special meeting scheduled for May 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Prewett to adjourn. Second by Whittington. All voted yea. The meeting adjourned 8:28.

ALLISON JONES, MAYOR PRO-TEM

DEBRA SMITH, TOWN CLERK