

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Johnny Digilormo, Alderpersons Ashby, Jones, Lee, Prewett & Whittington, Chief Gary Presswood, Attorney Tom Arceneaux, Town Clerk Jan Henderson and citizens.

ABSENT: None

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Ashby
Invocation given by Arceneaux

Questions and Statements of citizens:

Richie Hollier, candidate for State Representative, District 1 stopped by to remind everyone of the February 24th election.

Lee made a motion to accept minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 9, 2007 and the Special Meeting of January 11, 2007. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

SEWER OPERATIONS:

Ashby stated that the Town was experiencing some major sewer problems that he considered critical and that extensive repairs were needed which would be costly. He state Balar would have an analysis ready detailing the problem and best course of action for correction. He also stated Rural Water would be performing smoke test within the next month. Motion was made by Jones to authorized Ashby to take any action necessary to correct the sewer situation and bring the sewer into compliance with all regulations, subject to his compliance with all bid laws, and present a phased plan of action at the next council meeting. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea.

SPEAKER TIME LIMIT:

After some discussion of present procedures and recommended changes, motion was made by Lee to table this issue until the next council meeting so Arceneaux could research the statue for public address and make sure we remain within the parameters of the law with the changes wanted, prepare the resolution and present it at the next council meeting. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

USDA LETTER:

Arceneaux presented the council with a response letter to the USDA, requested by Mr. Hoffpauir which listed different scenarios of how the Town might acquire the East Mooringsport Water System which would be advantageous to the Town. He asked the council to look it over and give any input. He would like to have the council's response by the end of next week.

JIM HAGAN:

Mr. Hagan presented the Town with a "Preliminary Cost Estimate" on the plant expansion and the different options the Town had. After some discussion, motion was made by Jones to have Balar proceed with the Environmental Study as proposed. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 142:

No one was present.

ENTRY LEVEL WAGES INCREASE FOR BLANCHARD UTILITIES:

Motion was made by Lee to increase the entry level pay for Blanchard Utilities to \$10.00 Hr. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea. Jones also requested that we put on the agenda for next month requirements for future hiring.

RESOLUTION 2 OF 2007:

RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2007

A RESOLUTION ADDING CERTAIN POLICIES REGARDING
PERSONNEL MATTERS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT
THERE TO

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard (“Town”) has re-enacted Article A of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town relating to personnel policies; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted one or more resolutions to govern the personnel policies of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town has determined that a certain amendment to the Town’s personnel policies should be added to provide for the addition of the holiday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Blanchard, in due, legal and regular session convened, as follows:

Section 1. The policy of Holidays is to be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

HOLIDAYS

1. The regular Holidays for the Town shall be:

New Year’s Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (as observed by the United States)
President’s Day (as observed by the United States)
Good Friday
Memorial Day (as observed by the United States)
July 4
Labor Day
Veteran’s Day (as observed by the United States)
Thanksgiving Day and the Friday thereafter
Christmas Eve (1/2 day – afternoon)
Christmas Day
December 26

Section 2. If any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution that can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

Motion was made by Whittington to adopt Resolution 2 of 2007. Seconded by Jones.

YEAS: Jones, Lee, Prewett and Whittington

NAYS: Ashby

ABSENT: None

And Resolution 2 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of February, 2007.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2 OF 2007 BY TITLE ONLY: (AMENDED AGENDA ITEM)

Jones introduced Ordinance 2 of 2007 by title only to be considered for adoption at the March 13, 2007 council

meeting.

ORDINANCE 2 OF 2007

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A 1998 CROWN VICTORIA POLICE
VEHICLE SURPLUS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE THEREOF, AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO:

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS:

Sewer Department: Yeates informed the council that he had several issues on going which was discussed under new business.

Building and Grounds: Whittington stated he had a contractor look at the roof at Town Hall and was informed that the patch job on the roof looked good and should hold. He also presented the council with an estimate on repairs at the police department. Motion was made by Jones to approve repairs at the police department up to the quoted amount of \$3,507.50. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

Streets and Right of Ways: Allison stated she would check on getting a streetlight for 5918 Tin Cup Way. Allison informed the council that an order will placed for the 2 streetlights at the Nazarene Church. Also, she would make a request for a "No Outlet" sign to be placed on Northwood Lane. Mayor Digilormo stated that he had been through the new addition of Northwood Trace Subdivision and it didn't look like the streetlights were being placed according to the ordinance passed by the Town in August of 2006. The council asked that Henderson contact Mr. Lawler regarding this and ask that he comply.

Water Department: Prewett informed the council that Mr. Bowers suggest that we computerize the turbidity meters at the water plant. Cherry did some research and received a quote for \$15,160.00. Motion was made by Ashby to proceed with the computerization of the turbidity meters. Seconded by Lee. All voted yea. Prewett also informed the council that he and Ashby has called a meeting for the Blanchard Utilities employees for 2/15/07 at 6:00 P.M. in order to update the employees on the changes being made and answer any questions they might have. Cherry informed the council that the violation items that were to be repaired within 5 and 15 days have been taken care of and he was working on the other items.

Police Department: Presswood informed the council that he would like to surplus the 1998 Crown Victoria. Motion was made by Jones to amend the agenda to add the introduction of Ordinance 2 of 2007. Seconded by Lee. Roll Call Vote: Ashby – Yea, Jones – Yea, Lee – Yea, Prewett – Yea, Whittington – Yea.

Presswood also informed the council that Officer McGee's last day was 2/11/07 and he is looking for a replacement.

Treasurer: Lee informed the council that she received a bill from Swepco on the installation of the 2 new streetlights at the Nazarene Church with 3 options to choose for payments. After looking over the options, Lee made a motion to choose the \$890.00 up front payment. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

Budget Report: Henderson reported that nothing new with the budget other than the items already discussed. Lee asked to look into cost we spend on mowing and see about putting this towards a maintenance man on payroll. Whittington said he would look into it and report at the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR:

Mayor Digilormo commended Dave Cherry for the job he is doing at the water plant. He also commended David Yeates for his work in sewer. He stated his complete confidence in them. He report that new shirts had been ordered for the council. He also informed the council that Henderson needed a head count for anyone attending the LMA Convention in August so she could book the rooms. Lastly, the mayor reminded everyone of Brenda Martin's retirement March 31st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M. upon a motion by Jones. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

Jan Henderson, Town Clerk

Johnny Digilormo, Mayor