

MINUTES OF THE  
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2016  
7:00 O’CLOCK

**Present:** Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Fuller, Guin, Lee, Umling, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Atty. Tom Arceneaux, Perry Fuller-Utility Manager, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various guests.

**Absent:** None.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Fuller.

Invocation given by Whittington.

**Questions and Statements of Citizens**

Mr. Charles Hall, Jr. presented the Council with an Act of Donation for a three inch water line located in the public right of way of Mooringsport and Latex Road. The Council will consider the acceptance at a Special Meeting on October 25, 2016.

Motion by Whittington to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting September 13, 2016. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

**Old Business**

NONE

**New Business**

**Accept Petition for Annexation from Caddo Parish School Board re: Donnie Bickham Middle School.**

Motion by Whittington to accept the Annexation Petition from Caddo Parish School Board for Donnie Bickham Middle School. Second by Lee. All voted yea.

**Accept Petition for Annexation from Home Federal Bank.**

Motion by Whittington to accept the Annexation Petition from Home Federal Bank. Second by Lee. All voted yea.

**Introduce Ordinance 8 of 2016 by title only. An Ordinance to Establish a Permanent Means of Setting Water Rates, Policies, and Procedures and otherwise providing with respect thereto.**

Motion by Fuller to table the introduction of Ordinance 8 of 2016. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

**Resolution 11 of 2016-A Resolution Adopting Rates, Policies, and Procedures for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage and otherwise providing with respect thereto.**

Resolution 11 of 2016

A Resolution adopting Rates, Policies, and Procedures for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage and otherwise providing with respect thereto

WHEREAS, from time to time, residential and commercial users of water from the water system (“System”) owned and operated by the Town of Blanchard (“Town”) discover that they have

inadvertently used Accidental amounts of water from the System as result of leaks or breakage in their water lines on the customer side of the water meter; and

WHEREAS, the Town does not have authority to reduce rates or charges for such water in the absence of an established such rate; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to establish a uniform rate, policy, and procedure for a reduced rate for Accidental water usage for residential and commercial customers of the System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town that the Town hereby adopts the Policy for Alternate Rates for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage ("Policy") attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this Resolution or the Policy, or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this Resolution or the Policy that can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Resolution and the Policy are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion to accept Resolution 11 of 2016 made by Fuller, second by Lee. All voted yea.

And Resolution 11 of 2016 was adopted on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

#### Exhibit A

##### Policy for Alternate Rates for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage

This Policy for Alternate Rates for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage is designed to provide rate relief for residential and commercial customers of the Water System of the Town of Blanchard in the event of Accidental water usage by a customer due to leaks or line breakage in the customer's plumbing system resulting in unexpectedly high water usage and an unexpectedly high water bill.

Section 1. *Definitions.* As used in this Resolution, the following terms have the meanings below:

- (a) "Accidental Water Use" refers to water usage by a Customer in excess of the average water usage by the Customer as measured by the 12 billing periods prior to Customer's receipt of a water bill that the Customer believes includes charges for Accidental Water Use. If the Customer does not have at least 12 prior billing periods, the average water usage shall be determined by reference to the billing periods that are available for the Customer.
- (b) "Break" means a break in a water line or other piping system on the Customer side of the Customer's water meter.
- (c) "Customer" means a customer classified as a residential or commercial customer of the System as defined in the Town's System rate structure.
- (d) "Leak" means a leak in a water line or other piping system on the Customer side of the Customer's water meter.
- (e) "Policy" means this Policy for Alternate Rates for Accidental Water Use Due to Leaks or Breakage, as it may be amended or modified from time to time.
- (f) "System" means the water system operated by the Town.

(g) "Town" means the Town of Blanchard.

Section 2. *Notice of Break or Leak.* To avail himself or herself of the provisions of this Policy, the Customer must notify the Town in writing that the Customer believes he or she has encountered a Break or Leak that has resulted in Accidental Water Use, or that the Customer has received an unexpectedly high water bill. The Customer shall provide the Town with evidence satisfactory to the Town, in the Town's sole discretion, that the Accidental Water Use is due to a Break or Leak, including a description of the Break or the Leak. Such evidence might include photographs of or a statement of a licensed journeyman plumber about the Break or Leak.

Section 3. *Repair.* Within ten days after notice to the Town of the suspected Accidental Water Use, the Customer shall repair the Break or Leak, and shall furnish the Town with evidence satisfactory to the Town that the Break or Leak has been repaired. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a statement of a licensed journeyman plumber. The Town may inspect the repair to insure that it is accomplished and in a good and workmanlike manner.

Section 4. *Rate for Accidental Water Usage.* The rate ("Accidental Water Use Rate") for Accidental Water Use due to a Break or Leak shall be \$6.11 per 1000 gallons, or such other amount as shall be determined by resolution of the Board of Aldermen passed from time to time. Charges for the difference between the water used and the Accidental Water Use shall be at regular rates for the Customer. By way of example, if the total water use is 100,000 gallons as a result of a Break or Leak, and the 12 month average for monthly use is 50,000 gallons, 50,000 would be charged at the Accidental Water Use Rate, and would qualify for payment pursuant to this Policy, and 50,000 would be charged and due as provided in the Town's regular rate schedule.

Section 5. *Time for Payment.* Any payment for Accidental Water Use shall be made no later than four months following the due date of the water bill during which the Customer encountered Accidental Water Use the month during which the Accidental Water usage occurred. For good cause shown, the Mayor may extend the payment of charges for Accidental Water Use for up to two additional months. Any failure to make timely payments shall be a default, and the Town may exercise any cutoff or collection options or impose late fees it has established under other policies and procedures for water rates for the System.

Section 6. *Limitation on Applicability of Policy.* Notwithstanding anything in this Policy to the contrary, this Policy shall only apply to Accidental Water Use caused by a Break or Leak.

### **Report of Departments**

#### **Buildings and Grounds**

Umling-contractor is coming back to grind from fence to fence at the tennis courts and that will use up the rest of the LGAP money.

#### **Streets and Rights of Way**

Whittington-Parish road treatment is completed. The bridge near Blanchard Furrh and Walter B. Jacobs will shut down for for about six weeks. Another bridge west of Hwy 169 will be shut down within the next two months. Lee asked if there where water lines near those locations and P. Fuller said yes and both of the lines in those areas had to be lowered.

#### **Water Department**

J. Fuller-price and contract for the standpipe coating has been received. The customers downstream will be notified that during that time they will have low pressure because the repair will require bypassing the standpipe. The quote for the VFD came in \$2,000 lower than expected.

### **Sewer Department**

Guin-work on three new lift stations should begin around the 17<sup>th</sup> and be completed in approximately ten days..

### **Police Department**

Chief-please notify Caddo 911 when annexations are complete so it will be noted that area is now in Blanchard's town limits. Received notice that the police has been awarded LGAP 2015-2016 grant to go toward the purchase of a new patrol car.

### **Treasurer Report**

Lee-asked Debra to open a credit card account with Barksdale Federal Credit Union. Once those cards are received then cancel Capital One credit cards. Lee also instructed Debra to move all the accounts currently with Capital One to Home Federal Bank.

### **Comments by the Mayor**

Mayor Galambos reported:

- a. LGAP awarded for Year 215-2016 for Police car \$22,000.00
- b. FEMA money has been received for the two projects for a total of \$12,933.89.
- c. Received letter from DEQ authorizing the sludge line placement.
- d. Motion by Whittington , second by Fuller to expand the agenda to consider changing the November Council meeting to Wednesday, November 9, 2016 instead of the original date of Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Public hearing opened 7:20 p.m. Jayne Tappe asked if the Council would consider making it Thursday, November 10, 2016 since Wednesday is Church night? There being no other comments, the public hearing closed 7:21 p.m. Roll call vote to add to the agenda:  
YEAS: Fuller, Guin, Lee, Umling, and Whittington.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.  
Motion by Whittington to move the Tuesday, November 8, 2016 Council meeting to Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.
- e. Debra will be in Baton Rouge for a clerks' conference the entire week of October 17 to October 21 but she will be checking emails.
- f. A Special Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. with workshop to immediately follow.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Fuller. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:29 p.m.

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Jim Galambos, Mayor

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Debra Smith, Town Clerk