

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2016
7:00 O’CLOCK

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Fuller, Umling, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Atty. Tom Arceneaux, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various guests.

Absent: Alderpersons Guin and Lee, and Utility Manager Fuller.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Whittington.

Invocation given by Arceneaux

Questions and Statements of Citizens

Pat Turnley, who does the billing for East Mooringsport Water System, asked for an update on the East Mooringsport purchase. Mayor stated Blanchard Utilities is ready to close but East Mooringsport needs to get approval from the Public Service Commissioner to move forward.

Mrs. DeYoung asked if anything was sent to the water customers stating there would be a rate increase before the actual increase occurred? Alderperson Fuller stated that the meeting agenda was posted on the door the day before the meeting and on the website. She then asked if the property taxes would be increasing? The Mayor told her that was on the agenda to be voted on at the current meeting.

Samuel Yount, II asked if there would be a chance for the public to comment on the possible property tax increase? The Mayor stated that a public hearing was the first thing on the agenda under Old Business and yes people would be allowed to speak during that time.

Jayne Tappe asked when would there be a current map of the town limits available. Whittington gave her a phone number to call to get that information.

Motion by Whittington to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting July 12, 2016. Second by Umling. All voted yea.

Old Business

Public Hearing on Resolution 4 of 2016- BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Blanchard of the Parish of Caddo, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 9, 2016, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following adjusted millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2016, for the purpose of raising revenue.

Public Hearing opened 7:09 p.m. Samuel Yount, II asked what is the rationale for raising the property taxes for the Town of Blanchard? Mayor stated that the millage has to be reviewed every year and that the review does not mean there will always be an increase in the property taxes. After much discussion the hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.

Public Hearing on Resolution 5 of 2016- BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Blanchard of the Parish of Caddo, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 9, 2016, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official

assessment roll for the year 2016, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are.

Motion by Fuller to remove Resolution 5 of 2016 from the agenda. Second by Umling. Roll call vote:

YEAS: Fuller, Umling, and Whittington.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Guin and Lee.

ABSTAIN: None.

New Business

Adopt Adjusted Millage Rates as set forth in Resolution 4 of 2016 by Roll Call Vote.

Resolution 4 of 2015

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Blanchard of the Parish of Caddo, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 9, 2016, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2016, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE

General Fund Operating	6.51 mills
Sewer System	3.10 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of Caddo, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2016 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, motion made by Whittington, second by Fuller and the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Fuller, Umling, and Whittington.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Guin and Lee.

Set Forth the Adjusted Millage Rates and Roll Forward to Millage Rates Not Exceeding the Maximum Authorized as set forth in Resolution 5 of 2016 by Roll Call Vote.

See second line item under Old Business. No further action taken.

Motion, second, and vote on setting water rates for schools in a special billing category to be labeled "schools."

Motion by Fuller and second by Whittington to create a special billing category to be labeled "schools." All voted yea.

Motion, second, and vote on setting the current water rate for schools to \$173.10 for the minimum to 30,000 gallons and over 30,000 gallons the cost would be \$7.78 per 1,000 gallons.

Motion by Whittington and second by Umling to set the waters rates for schools to \$ 173.10 for the minimum to 30,000 gallons and over 30,000 gallons the cost would be \$ 7.78 per 1,000 gallons. All voted yea.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds

Umling-working on the removal of asphalt from the North side of the tennis court and basketball court at an estimated cost of \$ 3,600.00. Will use any remaining funds from LGAP to correct drainage issue.

Streets and Rights of Way

Whittington-nothing to report.

Water Department

Fuller-working together with Mayor to get some issues resolved regarding the discharge project.

Sewer Department

Guin absent so Fuller reported he gave Perry authority to purchase a new aerator for the sewer plant after the old one quit working.

Police Department

Chief-had to have the inside air unit worked on at a cost of \$510.00. Chief asked Whittington to get some "caution reduced speed zone ahead."

Treasurer Report

Lee-absent.

Comments by the Mayor

Mayor Galambos reported:

- a. He had met with Keith Howard, owner of Eagle Water System. Mr. Howard asked the Mayor if Blanchard would consider purchasing half of the water system. Mr. Howard would donate the other half to the Town. Mayor asked Howard to have a smoke test done to check for leaks and get an appraisal. Howard also asked the Mayor if he would consider also purchasing the sewer portion of the same area? Since an oxidation pond is used for that, the Mayor and Perry Fuller both agree that is not something they want to take over.
- b. Lakeview has scheduled a meeting with the Mayor and Lonnie Smith, water plant supervisor. Lakeview has some concerns because they were required to have their water tested and it tested positive for lead. Blanchard Utilities had the same test performed on their water and it came back in the 90th Percentile for both lead and copper. Meaning the levels are both below their respective action levels.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Fuller. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Debra Smith, Town Clerk