

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2014
7:00 O'CLOCK

Due to inclement weather, the Council meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Notice was posted before closing Monday afternoon, February 10, 2014.

Present: Mayor Digilormo, Alderpersons Ashby, Guin, Lee, and Whittington, Lonnie Smith, Perry Fuller, Caddo Parish Sheriff Deputy Spikes, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various citizens.

Absent: Alderperson Jones, Attorney Arceneaux, and Chief Presswood.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ashby.

Invocation given by Mayor.

Questions and Statements of Citizens: None

Motion by Guin to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting January 14, 2014. Second by Ashby. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2 of 2014-Office Personnel Salaries

Motion by Lee to postpone until a later date. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Public Hearing Ordinance 1 of 2014-Continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. (was introduced at January Council meeting)

Public hearing opened 7:03 p.m. There being no comments the public hearing closed 7:04 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 1 of 2014-Continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Motion by Whittington to postpone the adoption until the March 11, 2014, council meeting. All voted yea.

Discussion regarding Development Review Fees at Alderperson Lee's request.

Whittington to contact Attorney Arceneaux to compose a resolution to setup a process for an application and fee for engineering firms to be listed with the Town of Blanchard.

NEW BUSINESS

Gina McFarlane (owns Junk Gypzees and MacFarlane Small Engine Service) questioning the garage sales held next to the post office.

The Council unanimously agreed that they have no say over what is set up at Barksdale Federal Credit Union's picnic area. The use for yard sales would be no different than people having yard sales at their own home.

Resolution 3 of 2014- Acknowledging that the Town Council has reviewed an internal "Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report" concerning the Town of Blanchard's wastewater treatment facility.

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2014

A Resolution acknowledging that the Town Council has reviewed an internal
“Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report” concerning the Town of
Blanchard’s waste water treatment facility

Whereas, the state permits under which the Town of Blanchard’s Wastewater Treatment Plant operates require an internal survey form to be completed annually and submitted to the Town Council for review; and

Whereas, forms for the past year have been completed by Town administrative personnel after consultation with engineering and operational personnel, and are attached hereto;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Blanchard in due, legal and regular session convened, as follows:

That the Town Council acknowledges that it has reviewed the attached survey forms for the year 2013, as that the following actions have been set forth to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, number **LA0038903**,

- a. Continue to carry out the comprehensive plan for phased implementation of major equipment rehab/replacement as required by the amended compliance order. (Enforcement Tracking No. WE-C-11-00144A, A1 No. 40806)
- b. Continue to be proactive with reporting and preventative maintenance programs.
- c. Continue to modify and improve the collection system to reduce inflow and infiltration.

Be it further resolved that if any provision or items of this resolution or the application hereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

Be it further resolved that all resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion to accept Resolution 3 of 2014 made by Whittington, second by Ashby. All voted yea. And Resolution 3 of 2014 was adopted on this 12th day of February, 2014.

Introduce Ordinance 2 of 2014- Backflow prevention ordinance as recommended by DHH.

Whittington introduced Ordinance 2 of 2014 by title- Backflow prevention ordinance as recommended by DHH to be voted on at the March 11, 2014, Council meeting.

Ordinance 2 of 2014

A Model Ordinance on Cross Connection Control

Bulkwater contract for Lakeview Water

Ashby stated he was assured by the supervisors that the current water plant would be able to handle the amount of water Lakeview district would need. Motion by Ashby to enact the Lakeview contract as stated in same. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Resolution 4 of 2014-Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act as requested by LMA

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2014

A Resolution by the Town of Blanchard requesting the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to Co-Sponsor and support the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (S. 1610 & HR 3370) introduced October 29, 2013, in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and to have submit in writing to join the Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, INC.) as a supporter of their growing coalition for sustainable flood insurance to address the issues being faced as a result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

Whereas, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides homeowners with property coverage in the event of flooding and is required for many homeowners throughout the State of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, signed into Law in 2012, contains provisions for phased-in automatic premium increases for certain policy holders; and Whereas, Sections 205 and 207 will unfairly affect hundreds of thousands of policyholders throughout the United States who purchased or built their homes in accordance with current building codes; and

Whereas, the current provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 beginning July 1, 2012, removed the subsidized (pre-FIRM) rates for residences not being used as a primary home by the homeowner, and property experiencing repetitive losses due to flooding, any business property and any policy on a newly purchased home and allows rates to increase by 25% per year until actuarial rates are achieved; and

Whereas, these increase in flood insurance rates are having an adverse effect on not only the real estate industry as persons are not able to sell their homes or prospective buyers are wary of paying large flood insurance premiums, but also on the banking industry as well as potentially all sectors of business that may need to adjust costs up to absorb the premium increases; and Whereas, the consequences resulting from the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 is not isolated to the State of Louisiana but affects virtually every state of the United States; and

Whereas, the Town of Blanchard also by resolution adopted February 12, 2014, supports all efforts of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to work with members of Congress to address the issues created by the Biggert-Waters Flood Reform Act of 2012; and

Whereas, the diligent and tireless efforts of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA), U.S. Representative Bill Cassidy (R-LA), U.S. Representative Rodney Alexander (R-LA), U.S. Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA), U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond (R-LA), U.S. Representative Charles Boustany (R-LA), and U.S. Representative John Fleming (R-LA) in being the voice of Louisiana homeowners and business owners in Washington on this issue is very much appreciated; and

Whereas, in response to these issues, on October 29, 2013, U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) led a bipartisan coalition of U.S. Senators, including Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and David Vitter (R-LA) and introduced S. 1610, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act which will protect homeowners in the State of Louisiana and across the country from facing massive flood insurance rate premium increases. This legislation was soon followed by the United States House of Representatives which introduced similar legislation in H.R. 3370; and

Whereas, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act contains a number of provisions to address homeowners issues, including but not limited to delaying implementation of BW-12 until an affordability study is completed by FEMA and also requiring the reimbursement to homeowners who successfully appeal flood map findings; and

Whereas, Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc) a regional economic development group supporting the ten parishes in and around the New Orleans area has created the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance which is gaining support from business, civic, and government organizations across the State of Louisiana and the United States; and

Whereas, GNO, Inc. through the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance has taken action to bring awareness to the NFIP issues in Washington through testimony before committees and visiting the congressional delegation; and

Whereas, the Town of Blanchard through this resolution joins as a member of the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance to support their efforts in bringing awareness to the issues being felt as a result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and to assist in

bringing the necessary changes to eliminate these extraordinary costs on homeowners and business.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town of Blanchard requests:

Section 1. All members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to co-sponsor and support S. 1610/H.R. 3370 The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act and to take all the necessary and appropriate steps to ensure its passage and enactment into law.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Officially join as a member GNO, Inc.'s Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance and to support all of their efforts on this issue.

Section 4. Transmit a copy of this resolution to GNO, Inc. as a formal request to become a member of the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance.

Motion to accept Resolution 4 of 2014 made by Whittington, second by Guin. All voted yea. And Resolution 4 of 2014 was adopted on this 12th day of February, 2014.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Town of Blanchard, on this 12th day of February 2014, does hereby thank our legislative delegation for their leadership on this issue and request their continued effort to amend or revise the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Whittington stated nothing to report.

STREETS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Jones absent.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Ashby stated report attached for review.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Guin stated he spoke with the contractor regarding the sewer plant project. Equipment will be in around April and then training will be from April to June on the new equipment. Guin also stated he would like to get Hwy. 173 lift station upgrade out for bids.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief absent.

TREASURER REPORT

Lee asked hospital insurance renewal for the employees be discussed at a workshop in March and the final decision be in April. Guin volunteered to get 3 quotes from 3 brokers for the Council to review.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR

None. Caddo Sheriff Deputy Spikes reported there had been arrests made in connection with the car burglaries in the area. Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Ashby. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:48 p.m.

JOHNNY DIGILORMO, MAYOR

DEBRA SMITH, TOWN CLERK