

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2011
7:00 O'CLOCK

Present: Mayor Digilormo, Alderpersons Ashby, Jones, Lee, Prewett, and Whittington, Atty. Katherine Douthitt, Chief Presswood, Dave Cherry, David Yeates, Jennie Ashby, Candy Foshee, and various citizens.

Absent: Atty. Tom Arceneaux and Town Clerk Debra Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jones.

Invocation given by Mayor.

Questions and Statements of Citizens: Mrs. Connie Jenkins wanted an update on 232 and 236 Cleveland. The Mayor read an update that was given via telephone to the Town Clerk. Motion by Jones to proceed to next step in ordinance, second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Mrs. Jenkins also expressed concern over a dead pine tree in the right of way across from her driveway on Cleveland. Alderman Whittington advised he would have the parish evaluate the situation.

Motion by Prewett to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 11, 2011. Second by Jones. All voted yea.

Motion by Jones to amend agenda to include Resolution 24 of 2011 and Resolution 25 of 2011. Second by Lee. Open for public comment 7:10 p.m. and closed 7:11 p.m. after no public comment received.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Ashby, Jones, Lee, Prewett, and Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution 24 of 2011 (LCDBG engineering fees)

Resolution 24 of 2011

A Resolution Addressing Engineering Aspects of the Proposed FY 2012 – FY
2013 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Project

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard is desirous of submitting an application to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration for funding under the FY 2012 - FY 2013 LCDBG program for water improvements; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to pay all engineering costs associated with the implementation of the LCDBG program to receive one bonus point, should funding become available;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Blanchard has hired the engineering firm of Balar Associates, Inc. to provide engineering services relative to the LCDBG program. All engineering fees are established in the LCDBG application and are contingent upon funding of the project by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration under the FY 2012 or the FY 2013 LCDBG program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Blanchard has agreed to utilize local funds to pay all engineering costs associated with the preparation and implementation of the FY 2012 - FY 2013 LCDBG program.

Motion by Jones, second by Prewett to accept Resolution 24 of 2011. All voted yea.
And Resolution 24 of 2011 was adopted on this 8th day of November 2011.

Resolution 25 of 2011 (LCDBG Admin costs)

Resolution 25 of 2011

A Resolution Addressing Administrative Aspects of the Proposed FY 2012 – FY 2013 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Project

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard is desirous of submitting an application to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration for funding under the FY 2012 - FY 2013 LCDBG program for water improvements; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to pay all administrative costs associated with the implementation of the LCDBG program to receive one bonus point, should funding become available;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Blanchard has hired the administrative and engineering firms of GNF Management Company, Inc. and Balar Associates, Inc., to assist in the preparation of said application for the fees of \$1,400.00 and \$1,500.00, respectively. An additional fee of \$35,000.00 will be paid to the administrative firm of GNF Management Company, Inc., for subsequent program administration of the LCDBG program. All fees are contingent upon funding of the project by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration under the FY 2012 or the FY 2013 LCDBG program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Blanchard has agreed to utilize local funds to pay the above contract amount and all other administrative costs associated with the preparation and implementation of the FY 2012 - FY 2013 LCDBG program.

Motion by Jones, second by Prewett to accept Resolution 25 of 2011. All voted yea.
And Resolution 25 of 2011 was adopted on this 8th day of November 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

Quotes on foundation repair of Town Hall

After discussion, Lee made motion for Whittington to contact an engineer and have the authority to spend up to \$500.00 for the report and recommendation. Second by Jones. All voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance 12 of 2011 (Establishing/Designating an Appeals Board for Flood Hazard Protection)

Jones introduced the following to be considered for adoption at the Regular Meeting scheduled for December 13, 2011.

Ordinance 12 of 2011

An Ordinance to establish or designate an Appeal Board to decide applications for variances pursuant to Ordinance 8 of 2011, to provide for the membership thereof and otherwise providing with respect thereto

New Water Billing Software

Mrs. Jennie Ashby presented the Council with information she had acquired regarding new water billing software. After discussion, Lee made motion to purchase the Continental Utility Solutions, Inc. (CUSI) software, second by Prewett. All voted yea.

New Territory Unit 4 street lights installation

Deferred to next Council meeting.

Chris McFerren

Mr. McFerren would like to move a mobile home onto a lot located at 214 W. Phelps for his mother. He will tear down and dispose of the existing dilapidated home. After discussion, Ashby made motion to allow the mobile home to be moved onto said location, second by Lee. All voted yea.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds—Whittington stated he would get bids for a new furnace at Town Hall and have them by the next workshop scheduled for November 22, 2011. After discussion regarding the condition of the tennis courts, Lee and the Mayor advised that they would contact Caddo Parish Commissioner Doug Dominick and request the Commission to repair, update, etc. Streets and Rights of Way—Jones advised an extra town limit sign was located between Avondale and Kipling. Mr. Yeates will remove the sign and store same. Water Dept.—Prewett stated still on a watering schedule and still watching lake levels. Prewett made motion to establish the following policy:

When a customer requests re-reads for high water bills, they will get 2 free re-reads within a 6 month period. If a third request is made within that same 6 month period, there will be a charge of \$25.00 added to their bill IF the re-read is found to be correct. Second by Jones. All voted yea.

Prewett also state 3 trucks were sold at auction. The proceeds from that sale will paid for 1 of 3 new trucks ordered. Currently getting estimated bids of \$32,000 to \$38,000 for a new mini excavator to be used exclusively for the sewer department. The other mini excavator will be used exclusively for water line installation and repairs.

Sewer Dept.—Ashby stated Deer Creek lift station is progressing well. UOP wants to put in 700,000 gallons per day into the sewer plant, but will need to look at what chemicals are in the water that would be added. The upgraded and expanded sewer plant should be up and running by this time next year.

Police Dept.—Chief stated that Risk Management, Inc. requires all police officers to have a psychological evaluation. Chief also stated he will need a new line item in the budget for that expense to cover 7 officers.

Treasurer Report—Lee stated nothing to report.

Comments by the Mayor: Because of the great turnout and participation at the Blanchard Music Fest, \$3600.00 was donated to Blanchard Elementary School for smart boards. Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Lee. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 8:16 p.m.

Johnny Digilormo, Mayor

Debra Smith, Town Clerk