

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
MARCH 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 Prewett
Invocation given by Mayor Digilormo

Questions and Statements of citizens:

Robert Quick, 8476 Blanchard Furrh Rd. stated he has called several times about a water main leak and can get no response. Prewett requested that Yeates get someone to look at it tomorrow.

Jones made a motion to accept minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 13, 2007 . Seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

WITHDRAW ORDINANCE 2 OF 2007:

Henderson informed the council that the ordinance wasn't need as the Justice Of The Peace wished to purchase the automobile and that a resolution was following to allow for this.

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2007(SPEAKER TIME LIMIT):

Attorney Arceneaux informed the council that the resolution was not ready and asked that this be deferred until next council meeting.

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2007(SALE OF PD AUTO):

RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2007

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A 1998 CROWN VICTORIA POLICE VEHICLE SURPLUS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF THE VEHICLE TO THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR WARD 3, CADDO PARISH, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Town of Blanchard ("Town") has removed from service that certain 1998 Ford Crown Victoria 4DR automobile ("Vehicle"), VIN 2FAFP71W7WX134859; and

WHEREAS, the Town has no use for Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to declare that the Vehicle is no longer needed, and wishes to sell the Vehicle to James H. Foshee, Justice of the Peace for Ward 3, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in his official capacity, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:1324 and other applicable law;

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 Vehicle is hereby declared no longer needed for the purposes of the Town of Blanchard.

Section 2. The Vehicle shall be sold to James H. Foshee, Justice of the Peace for Ward 3, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in his official capacity, without public bid or advertisement, for \$1,000.00, which the Town hereby declares to be the fair value of the vehicle, for the purpose of maintaining governmental services.

Section 3. 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 4. All resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. Motion was made by Jones to adopt Resolution 4 of 2007. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea.

And Resolution 4 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of March, 2007.

BALAR ENGINEERING (WATER & SEWER ISSUES):

After some discussion of the proposed Hydraulic Analysis, motion was made by Prewett to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Balar to perform a system hydraulic analysis, not to exceed the quoted amount of \$13, 120.00 as proposed by their March 11, 2007 letter. seconded by Jones. All voted yea. After further review, it was realized that the field survey was not included in this amount. Motion was made by Prewett to include the additional amount for the field survey with the total amount not to exceed \$18,000.00. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS

GARBAGE RATE INCREASE:

Due to landfill rate increases, motion was made by Lee to increase the garbage rate to \$8.50 monthly, effective immediately. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

ADDITON OF T-SHIRTS TO UNIFORMS:

Mayor informed the council that he wanted to add t-shirts to the uniforms of Blanchard Utilities employees. The council agreed that this was needed and told Yeates and Cherry to proceed with the ordering as the amount was under \$500.00.

NLCOG:

Whittington asked that this matter be tabled to a later date until Mr. Rogers can attend a meeting to

let the council know exactly what the Town would be getting for this money. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

POSSIBLE ANNEXATION OF NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL(RESOLUTION 9 OF 2007):

The mayor informed the council that he would attend the next school board meeting next week and that there would be a resolution on the agenda regarding annexation into Blanchard's town limits. Mayor stated this would allow the town to help out with the school when needed. Jones suggested the council adopt a resolution showing the Town's support of this.

RESOLUTION 9 of 2007

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURSUE ANNEXATION OF NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL IN TO THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, THE Town Council of the Town of Blanchard in due, legal and regular session convened, finds that annexation of the property on which Northwood High School into the Town of Blanchard is situated would benefit the Town of Blanchard, the Caddo Parish School Board, the citizens of the Town of Blanchard and the students, faculty and staff of Northwood High School;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Blanchard supports the annexation of the property on which Northwood High School into the Town of Blanchard, and authorizes the Mayor to engage in discussions with the Caddo Parish School Board to determine the means and timing of annexation of such property into the Town of Blanchard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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.

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

Motion was made by Jones to adopt Resolution 9 of 2007. Seconded by Lee.

Vote: 5 Yea 0 Nay

Resolution 9 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of March, 2007.

RESOLUTION 5 OF 2007 (CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT):

After some discussion of the proposed resolution, motion was made by Jones to defer this matter until the next council meeting in order to give the council time to look over the agreement. Seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

RESOLUTION 6 OF 2007:

RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2007

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO CONDUCT A CONTEST AT BLANCHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town desires to permit children who attend Blanchard Elementary School (“School”), operated by the Caddo Parish School Board (“Board”), to participate in a contest to develop a slogan for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to permit such children to participate in the contest; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Board desire to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in the form attached hereto;

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 Mayor is authorized to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement attached hereto, to execute such agreement and to deliver same to the Board.

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.

Motion was made by Lee to adopt Resolution 6 of 2007. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

And Resolution 6 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of March, 2007.

DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLAN TO NOTIFY CUSTOMERS ON WATER ISSUES:

John Fuller, commended the council for proceeding with the hydraulic analysis on the water system. He stated his concern for water issues regarding Eagle Water and E. Mooringsport. He wants to ensure that we have enough water for existing Blanchard customers and if we do, they should pay a higher rate. Ashby informed him that the council will not consider taking on any other communities until they are assured to existing customers are taken care of. Mr. Fuller stated he just wanted to be sure that the council consider the expansion and growth of Blanchard before taking on other water systems. Jones assured him this was always in mind. Jones stated that the council should have a formal plan of action should there be other water issues in order to inform the public as soon as possible. After some discussion about possible solutions it was decided to have another workshop to develop a plan of action.

RESOLUTION 7 OF 2007 (SEWER AUDIT):

RESOLUTION 7 OF 2007

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, 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. Repair/replace existing chlorination equipment
- b. Repair/replace existing aeration equipment
- c. Repair clarification equipment
- d. Improve sludge wasting methods
- e. Improve reporting and preventative maintenance programs to be proactive not reactive.

- f. Rehabilitate electrical and control systems
- g. Modify and improve the collection system.

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 was made by Jones seconded by Ashby to adopt Resolution 7 of 2007. All voted yea.

And Resolution 7 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of March, 2006.

POLICE PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Motion was made by Jones to accept the recommendation of Chief Presswood and promote Jammie Phil from part-time to a full-time position with the Blanchard Police Department. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea. Also, motion was made by Lee to accept the recommendation of Chief Presswood and hire Gerald Allen as a part-time police officer, replacing Phil. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION BY JOHN DAVIS:

No show

BLUEBIRD WIRELESS SERVICES:

Steven Hyde with Bluebird Wireless spoke to the council about moving into the area offering high speed internet and phone service. He stated he was interested in renting space on 2 of Blanchard's water tanks. He stated the going rate for rental is \$1.35 per linear ft. monthly. Lee ask that Mr. Hyde have an agreement drawn up and send to Arceneaux to look over the council would address the issue next month.

RESOLUTION 8 OF 2007:

Whittington stated he was in agreement with this resolution, providing "item 3" would be added stating a minimum of 1/5 royalty. The council was in agreement to the addition.

RESOLUTION 8 OF 2007

BE IT RESOLVED, THE BLANCHARD BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO REQUEST THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE STATE MINERAL BOARD TO LEASE CERTAIN MINERAL INTERESTS OWNED BY THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard may own certain mineral rights underlying the following described property, to-wit:

TRACT – Caddo Parish, Louisiana

A Tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 19 North – Range 16 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 35; Thence run North 167.7 Feet to the North Right-of Way Line of the Blanchard-Latex Road and the Point-of-Beginning; Thence run North 208.0 Feet; Thence run East 208.0 Feet; Thence run South 216.15 Feet to the North Right-of-Way Line of the Blanchard-Latex Road; Thence run North 86 Degrees 42 Minutes West 79.9 Feet; Thence run North 87 Degrees 52 Minutes West 128.7 Feet to the Point-of Beginning, containing 1.0 Acre, more or less.

WHEREAS, The Town of Blanchard has received a written request from ARKLATEX Energy, L.L.C. that the Town of Blanchard seek public bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease covering said property; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, State Mineral Board in available upon the request of The Town of Blanchard to lease the aforesaid property for oil, gas and other minerals if requested to do so by the Town,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Blanchard in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, State Mineral Board be and it is hereby requested and authorized to seek public bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease covering the property described hereinabove with the following stipulations:

1. There will be **NO** operations on the surface of the above described property.
2. The lease will expire Three (3) years from the date of signing should there be no production.
3. There will be a minimum 1/5th Royalty

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion was made by Jones to adopt Resolution 8 of 2007. Seconded by Prewett.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And Resolution 8 of 2007 was adopted on this 13th day of March, 2007.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS:

Sewer Department: Ashby informed the council he was working on several projects and it would be costly. He stated he was in the process of bringing the sewer system above par, that the system was old and he would pursue it a step at a time. Yeates stated William St, Cherry Hill, & Hwy. 173 were up running. He stated 2 there were 2 more to complete. He also stated the smoke test has show 14 problems, 2 were major problems and that the other half of the smoke test would be completed on the 28th. He stated it was all listed in the report he provided. Prewett stated the report was very good.

Building and Grounds: Whittington stated that the duct work at the police station needs to be replaced before starting the approved repairs. He stated he would have a total cost at the next meeting and the repairs would be completed as soon as possible. Ashby informed Whittington that a maintenance man would be hired. Whittington stated he thought this would be extremely cost efficient. Whittington wanted to commend Mr. Raymond Lee on the renovations to the council room and the workmanship on the tables Mr. Lee made for the room at no cost. The council all agreed it was beautiful and requested that Henderson have the tables covered with glass to protect the wood. Whittington extended an invitation to everyone to attend the opening ceremonies at the Blanchard Ballpark on March 31st at 9:00 A.M. He stated there were 540 children playing this year. Prewett asked Whittington to look at the pothole in the back parking lot. Whittington also stated the refrigerator at Town Hall needs replacing. Motion was made by Jones to authorize Henderson to replace the refrigerator, not to exceed a cost of \$500.00. and declare the old refrigerator surplus. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea.

Streets and Right of Ways: Jones stated that the streetlights discussed at last council meeting have been reported to Swepco, and were being handled. Presswood stated that the "No Outlet" would be placed on the existing sign at Northwood Lane. She also stated that Hwy. 173 had been cleaned up. She stated she was working on a list of street pavings to submit to the parish. She stated there were some streets that seem to be neglect and will make sure these areas are addressed.

Water Department: Prewett commended Yeates on the report he provided and requested that Yeates e-mail the report to the mayor and council before the meeting so the council would have time to look it over and ask questions at the meeting. Prewett asked about the sewer taps that were being covered up without inspections. Yeates stated he would begin fining anyone that covers up a tap without an inspection. Prewett asked about the new truck. Yeates stated it should here within the next couple of months. Cherry stated that the water plant was doing great. The data collection system should be installed shortly. He stated paperwork had been mailed to the state to make us an approved lab. He stated the plans for filer to waste had been submitted to DHH and he was waiting for approval from them to proceed. He stated he had met with DEQ and a lot of problems would have to be addressed in order to meet DEQ regulations and that it would be very costly. Ashby asked Mayor to check on the fire hydrant being

installed at Northwood High School. He was unsure if it would belong to the Town and if so, how would the Town access it.

Police Department: Nothing to report

Treasurer: Nothing to report

Budget Report: Henderson reported that nothing new with the budget other than the items already discussed.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR:

Mayor Digilormo wanted to again thank Raymond Lee for all his hard work on the tables and renovation of the council room along with David Yeates and Jan Henderson. He thanked everyone for their support in this. Lee stated he was also making a clock for the council room that should be ready shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M. upon a motion by Lee. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

Jan Henderson, Town Clerk

Johnny Digilormo, Mayor