

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
APRIL 10, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Johnny Digilormo, Alderpersons Ashby, Jones, Lee, Prewett & Whittington, Chief Gary Presswood, Attorney Tom Arceneaux, Candy Foshee and citizens.

ABSENT: None

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Presswood
Invocation given by Tom Arceneaux

Questions and Statements of citizens:

Rex Smith, of Wasson Road, Shreveport, LA, offered his help in any way to the utility department in finding solutions in any future water situations.

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

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2007 (SPEAKER TIME LIMIT)

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2007

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENTS AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND
OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard desires to conduct business in an open and public manner to make citizens aware of the deliberations and decisions that go into making public policy; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons desire that all citizens be allowed input into the open meetings of the Town of Blanchard; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard is required to provide public comment, subject to reasonable rules, regulations and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons desire to balance the concern that all public meetings remain orderly with the desire that all citizens be allowed input into meetings of the Town of Blanchard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the following policy be adopted for statements from the citizens at public meetings:

All speakers must sign in prior to the meeting by completing a speaker slip. The speaker slip shall request the citizen's name, physical address (not post office Box), and subject of the comment they wish to address to the Council.

Speakers must be respectful and refrain from defamation, name-calling, obscene or vulgar language.

All speakers shall be limited to three (3) minutes, subject to the extension of time as provided by the Board of Alderpersons.

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 thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Whittington made a motion to accept Resolution 3 of 2007. Seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

And Resolution 3 of 2007 was adopted on this 10th day of April, 2007.

RESOLUTION 5 of 2007 (CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT)

A motion was made by Lee to table this Resolution. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

RESOLUTION 10 OF 2007 (SEWER)

A motion was made by Ashby to table this Resolution until the next council meeting. Seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

BLUEBIRD WIRELESS SERVICES

A motion was made by Whittington to authorize the Mayor to enter into the agreement with Bluebird Wireless Services with approval of the Council. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

WATER EXPANSION

Balar left two packets at Town Hall concerning the water expansion. These are available to the Alderpersons for perusal.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Lee to amend the Agenda to include the Petition for Annexation of Northwood High School by the Caddo Parish School Board and to accept the resignation of Jan Henderson as Town Clerk. Roll call vote: Ashby – yea, Jones – yea, Lee – yea, Prewett – yea, Whittington – yea.

COMMISSIONER DOUG DOMINICK:

Newly appointed Caddo Commissioner Doug Dominick offered his help to the Town in his capacity as commissioner. Mr. Dominick also discussed the upcoming Bond and Rededication election to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007. He reminded everyone that this is an existing property tax and sales tax, and are not new taxes.

SANDY DAVIS (OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY)

Mr. Davis discussed the availability of his services to the Town in the event of any emergency such as the Boil Advisory in January, 2007. He has the capability of calling all customers on the water system to advise them of an emergency, at the rate of 350 phone calls per minutes. He offered an example of a 30 second message to 4,200 customers at a cost of \$192.00. A motion was made by Jones to authorize Mayor Digilormo, Chief Presswood and David Yeates and Dave Cherry of the utility department, to contact the Office of Homeland Security in the event of any future emergency. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2 OF 2007 (AUTO SURPLUS)

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A MOTOR VEHICLE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, PROVIDING THE MEANS OF SALE AND ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PRICE FOR SUCH VEHICLE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Jones introduced Ordinance 2 of 2007 by title only to be considered for adoption at the May 15, 2007 council meeting.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Ashby made motion to table this matter until the next workshop for further discussion. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

RECONNECT WAIVERS:

Prewett made motion to table this matter until the next workshop for further discussion. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

PLAT REVIEW CHANGES:

Lee made motion to table this matter until the next workshop for further discussion. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

REAPPOINTMENT OF JAN HENDERSON AS TAX COLLECTOR:

Lee made motion to reappoint Jan Henderson as Tax Collector until May 1, 2007. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BY CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD:

Lee made motion to accept the petition for annexation of Northwood High School by the Caddo Parish School Board. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

RESIGNATION OF JAN HENDERSON, TOWN CLERK:

Whittington made motion to accept the resignation of Jan Henderson, Town Clerk, as written. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 5 of 2007 (Cable Franchise Agreement)

Lee made motion to remove this matter from the table. Seconded by Ashby. All voted yea.

After discussion, Ashby made motion to table this matter until the next council meeting. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS:

Sewer Department:

Ashby reported on the research with Balar and independent contractors on a solution to the surcharging issue on W. Birch, with estimates ranging from \$30,000.00 to over \$100,000.00.

A smoke test was conducted on a part of the system and some problems were solved. There will be other tests in the future as time allows.

Problems with Northwood Trace drainage were discussed. It was suggested by Jones that Ken Lawler be invited to the next council meeting to discuss this matter.

Motion was made by Ashby to approve the purchase of safety equipment required by OSHA not to exceed \$5,200.00, and to approve the rehabilitation needed to the wet well on Hwy 173. Seconded by Jones. All voted yea.

Ashby made motion to set a special meeting for Tuesday, April 17, 200 at 6:00 to discuss priorities to overflow issue on W. Birch, and emergency generators at Wastewater Plant, Williams Street and Hwy 173. Seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

Yeates presented his March, 2007 Report concerning Wastewater Treatment and Collection, showing all that was accomplished during the month of March, and what remains to be done.

Building and Grounds:

Whittington asked Attorney Arceneaux to research and advise the Board if Mr. Jimmy Sitter is in compliance with the State of Louisiana as a certified building inspector.

Whittington reported on the police station ceiling and duct work repairs. Ashby made a motion to authorize Whittington to have duct work done for the sum not to exceed \$1,400.00. Seconded by Prewett. All voted yea.

Streets and Right of Ways:

Nothing to report.

Water Department:

Prewett reported on the Bobcat loader used at the plant to handle the sludge from the discharge water. It has helped by cutting the time needed to do this job in half.

Prewett authorized Dave Cherry to purchase from Systems Sales four flow meters at the price of \$1,350.00 each, with Feazel Electric installing same for the price of \$1,250.00.

Dave Cherry met with Ron Gray with LDEQ with reference to spill prevention and control on the water plant's above ground storage tanks. Recommendations were made by Mr. Gray, and Jones requested that Cherry get the recommendations in writing.

Dave Cherry reported on a tracer study required by the DHH, and said study will be conducted by personnel from Thornton, Musso & Bellemin, Inc., at a price of \$2,000.00 and the report will be sent to the DHH.

Police Department:

Chief Presswood advised that the Police Department had received a \$25,000.00 grant to replace video equipment in the police cars. Chief Presswood extended a special thanks to Senator Lydia Jackson for her help in obtaining this grant.

Treasurer:

Nothing to report

Budget Report:

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 P.M. upon a motion by Lee. Seconded by Whittington. All voted yea.

Jan Henderson, Town Clerk

Johnny Digilormo, Mayor