

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Lee, Fuller, Guin and Whittington, Candy Foshee, Town Clerk, Perry Fuller, Utility Manager, Deputy Spikes and other guests.

Absent: Alderperson Presley and Atty. Arceneaux

Meeting called to order by Mayor at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Fuller

Invocation by Whittington

Questions and Statements of Citizens: Robert Jenkins asking for update on junk vehicles at 238 Maple. Mayor advised he will get with Chief Presswood on this matter.

Lee made motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 9 and 15, 2019. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing – Ordinance 12 of 2019 An Ordinance to Amend and Re-enact Section 19.3 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Blanchard for Approval of Subdivision Plats and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Public hearing was opened at 6:05. There being no comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:06.

Vote on Ordinance 12 of 2019

ORDINANCE 12 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 19.3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD FOR APPROVAL OF SUBDIVISION PLATS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard (“Town”) has determined that all subdivision plats shall be submitted to the Mayor for approval instead of the Board of Alderpersons before being filed for record in the records of the parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana, in due, legal and regular session convened, that Section 19.3 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town be and it hereby is reenacted to read as follows:

SECTION 19.3 PLAT APPROVAL REQUIRED.

Any person desiring to sub-divide a tract of land within the corporate limits, or to be included therein, shall submit a plat and map of the subdivision to the Mayor to be approved by him before same

shall be filed for record in the records of the parish. Any person who shall file or cause to be filed for record in the office of the recorder of deeds for the Parish, any plat or subdivision which by provisions of this article shall require the approval of the Mayor without approval being first obtained, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. If any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall become effective immediately

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 9th day of April, 2019 by Whittington, notice of a public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion of Fuller, seconded by Lee, to adopt the ordinance as amended, a roll call vote was taken and the following was had:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Presley

ABSTAIN: None

And Ordinance 12 of 2019 was adopted this 14th day of May, 2019.

Introduction by Title - Ordinance 13 of 2019 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana of the Property Described as Lots 22, 23, 24 and 25, Northwood Country Club Estates, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Lee introduced Ordinance 13 of 2019 by title only as follows:

ORDINANCE 13 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE TO ENLARGE THE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF
THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, LOUISIANA OF THE PROPERTY
DESCRIBED AS LOTS 22, 23, 24 AND 25, NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
ESTATES, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Introduction by Title – Ordinance 14 of 2019 – An Ordinance to Amend the Budget for the Town of Blanchard for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019 and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Lee introduced Ordinance 14 of 2019 by title only as follows:

ORDINANCE 14 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Introduction by Title – Ordinance 15 of 2019 – An Ordinance to Adopt the Budget for the Town of Blanchard for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Lee introduced Ordinance 15 of 2019 by title only as follows:

ORDINANCE 15 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Resolution 4 of 2019 – A Resolution in Opposition of All Proposed Legislation that Transfers the Administration and Collection of Local Sales and Use Taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2019

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT TRANSFERS THE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF LOCAL SALES & USE TAXES TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, there are several constitutional amendments and bills introduced in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session that would transfer collection responsibility of local sales and use tax levies to the state Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect its own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology and successful litigation; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana's budget issues do not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance, enforcement programs and training of its employees on the specific application of local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, many local taxing authorities have issued bonded indebtedness guaranteed by the passage locally adopted sales and use tax levies, collection of said levies the direct responsibility of local governments, and which transfer of that responsibility to a state agency may generate legal challenges and jeopardize future bond issues; and

WHEREAS, the central local collector in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, and the Secretary of Revenue being an appointee of the Governor of the state, uncertainty exists as to who in the Department of Revenue will be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Blanchard, as a governing body, asks that each member of the legislative delegation for the Parish of Caddo is urged to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that transfers the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to said legislators so that they will be made aware of our position on this matter.

Motion to accept Resolution 4 of 2019 made by Whittington. Second by Fuller. All voted yea. Resolution 4 of 2019 was adopted this 14th day of May, 2019.

Amend LCDBG proposal from Sewer Treatment to Potable Water

Whittington made motion to amend the LCDBG application from Sewer Treatment to Potable Water. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

April, 2019 financials (To be emailed)

The financials for April 2019 will be emailed to the council upon completion.

REPORT FROM:

Perry Fuller, Utility Manager – fixed one major leak, five meter sets, multiple locates. The projects including the force main relocation are all making steady progress. Mr. Oscar Boudreaux will be here on Friday, May 17, 2019 to inspect and give feedback on our sewer treatment plant.

Gary Presswood, Chief of Police – Chief attended the graduation of Timothy Duvall, Jr. from the 45th class of the Caddo Parish Sheriff Department today.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor rode in the Poke Salad parade which was smaller than usual due to rain. Farmer's Market opens Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 8:00 am on parking lot of First Baptist Church on Attaway Street. Caddo Lake was nine feet away from our intake site and dam was built for protection. We will be looking at purchasing a five foot tall water-proof rubber bladder to surround the intake site in the future.

Whittington made motion to adjourn, second by Fuller. All voted yea. Meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Candy Foshee, Town Clerk