

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2017
7:00 O’CLOCK

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons J. Fuller, Guin, Lee and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Deputy Atty. Katherine Douthitt, Perry Fuller-Utility Manager, Candy Foshee-Asst. to Town Clerk, and various guests.

Absent: Umling

Meeting called to order by Mayor

Pledge of Allegiance led by Presswood

Invocation given by Lee

Questions and Statements of Citizens

Several residents asked the Council to please look at the yard situation at 211 Jo Lacy. The Mayor advised that letters have been sent to the owner with a time limit. Also Alderman Whittington advised that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Caddo Parish Commission.

Motion by Lee to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting January 10, 2017. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Old Business

Public Hearing on Ordinance 8 of 2016 – An Ordinance to Establish a Permanent Means of Setting Water Rates, Policies, and Procedures and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Public Hearing opened 7:10 p.m. there being no discussion or comments the hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 8 of 2016

ORDINANCE 8 OF 2016

WHEREAS, the Town Blanchard (“**Town**”) operates a municipal water system (“**System**”) both inside and outside the corporate limits of the Town; and

WHEREAS, from time to time the Town has established water rates, policies, and procedures both by resolution and by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Town has the authority to establish water rates, policies, and procedures for the System; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to establish a uniform means of establishing and set water rates, policies, procedures for System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town, as follows:

Section 1. All rates, policies, and procedures for the operation of the System, the imposition of rates and charges, and policies and procedures for collection for the System shall be established by resolution of the Board of Aldermen of the Town.

Section 2. All rates, policies, and procedures previously set by the Board of Aldermen of the Town are hereby confirmed and ratified, subject to modification or alteration by any future resolution duly adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town.

Section 3. 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 that can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

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

Motion by Whittington to adopt Ordinance 8 of 2016, second by Fuller.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Fuller, Guin, Lee, and Whittington.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Umling.
ABSTAIN: None
And Ordinance 8 of 2016 was adopted this 14th day of February, 2017.

New Business

Introduce Ordinance 1 of 2017 by Title only (Home Federal Bank Annexation) – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana of the Property Described as Lot Two (2), Oswald Subdivision, a Subdivision of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Mayor Galambos introduced the following Ordinance to be voted on at the March 14, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.

Acceptance of Water Line Dedication from Walmart.

No action required at this time.

Resolution 3 of 2017 – A Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Adjudications of Certain Properties by the Town Due to Correction of Tax Rolls, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

RESOLUTION 3 of 2017

A Resolution Authorizing The Cancellation Of Adjudications Of Certain Properties By The Town Due To Correction Of Tax Rolls, And Otherwise Providing With Respect Thereto

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard (“Town”) has been requested, on an urgent basis, by the Caddo Parish Tax Assessor, Charles R. Henington, Jr., to cancel certain adjudications of property for failure to pay assessed *ad valorem* taxes because the properties adjudicated were incorrectly listed on the Caddo Parish tax rolls. The properties, described in more detail below, were originally exempt from *ad valorem* taxation under the La. Const. art. VII, § 21(B)(1)(a)(i).

WHEREAS, that the following properties, municipally known as portions of the Old Blanchard Cemetery and originally assessed to United Methodist Church, Northpoint, Inc., referred to herein as the “Properties,” are affected by the cancellations:

Tract 100 – a tract of land in the E/2 of NW/4 of Section 3 (18-15) per Assrs. Plat, 181503-0-100 (Adjudicated for taxes for the years 2005, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015), and

Tract 101 – a tract of land in the E/2 of NW/4 of Section 3 (18-15) per Assrs. Plat, 181503-0-101 (Adjudicated for taxes for the year 2005),

WHEREAS, that the Town desires to cancel the adjudications of the Properties in compliance with the Caddo Parish Tax Assessor’s request, and that the Town further shall reimburse, as may be required by law but only to the extent required or necessary, any parties having made payments to the Town for *ad valorem* taxes incorrectly assessed against the Properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town as follows:

Section 1. That Jim Galambos, in his capacity as Mayor of the Town (“Mayor”), and Debra Smith, in her capacity as Town Clerk and Tax Collector (“Clerk”), are authorized, on behalf of the Town, to execute such cancellations of adjudications of the Properties as requested

by the Caddo Parish Tax Assessor, in such form as is prepared and approved by the Town Attorney, and to record the same in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

Section 2. The Town further authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to reimburse, as may be required by law but only to the extent required or necessary, any parties having made payments to the Town for ad valorem taxes incorrectly assessed against the Properties.

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 thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion to accept Resolution 3 of 2017 made by Lee, second by Whittington. All voted yea. And Resolution 3 of 2017 was adopted on this 14th day of February, 2017.

Resolution 4 of 2017 – 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.

Resolution 4 of 2017

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 2016, 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 4 of 2017 made by Whittington, second by Fuller. All voted yea. And Resolution 4 of 2017 was adopted on this 14th day of February, 2017.

Resolution 5 of 2017 – A Resolution Adopting the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017.

Resolution 5 Of 2017

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard Mayor and Council recognize the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Blanchard; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan hereby known as the CADDO PARISH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2017 in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Blanchard from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard is participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by the Caddo Parish Government under the oversight of a Steering Committee comprised of Parish-Wide representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been recommended for adoption by the steering committee;

WHEREAS, adoption by the Town of Blanchard Council demonstrates their commitment to the hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan is required prior to further consideration for FEMA funding under the following programs:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Blanchard Council hereby adopts the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017.

Motion to accept Resolution 5 of 2017 made by Whittington, second by Fuller. All voted yea.

And Resolution 5 of 2017 was adopted on this 14th day of February, 2017.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds

Umling absent.

Streets and Rights of Way

Whittington - will ask Mr. Andy Craig, a civil engineer representing property owners on Hwy. 1, to attend the next workshop on February 28, 2017 for discussion re: reducing speed limit. Whittington advised the bridge on Blanchard Furrh Road near Walter Jacobs Nature Park will be closed on March 13, 2017 for approximately six weeks for repairs.

The Parish will construct an additional compactor site on Hwy 1 north of Elsie's.

Lee- talked with Caddo Parish Sign Shop reference placing town limit signs near I-49 and Hwy. 1, McDonald's at Hwy. 1 and Old Mooringsport Road, and the Valero Station at Old Mooringsport Road and Dixie Blanchard Road.

Water Department

J. Fuller - Bids will be opened Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:00 am at Town Hall for sludge line. Water applications are being taken from East Mooringsport water customers in anticipation of the takeover.

P. Fuller – still working on the standpipe. The East Cove project is starting up. East Mooringsport closing is set for February 28, 2017.

Sewer Department

Guin-lift stations are all working well.

Police Department

Chief-new vehicle is in service. Will submit LGAP grant for new vehicle soon and will declaring a 2010 Crown Vic as surplus. The ABO card machine is up and running.

Treasurer Report

Lee- reported the auditor will be working with Debra Smith to balance the credit card payments.

Comments by the Mayor

Mayor reported:

- a. Mayor and Chief attended ground breaking ceremony of the new HealthCARE Express location behind Taco Bell. This company is very interested in working with the local schools with a reading program and leading a healthy lifestyle. They will be using Blanchard water and would like to annex into the Town of Blanchard eventually.
- b. Mayor will attend the Pine Hill Water System Board meeting Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 5:00 pm and invited anyone that would like to attend.
- c. Mayor asked for input on whether a brochure/handout would be cost effective for the Town to invest in, or to put the same information on an undated website or a Facebook page.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Fuller. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Candy Foshee, Asst. to Town Clerk