

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

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons J. Fuller, Lee, Umling, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Perry Fuller-Utility Manager, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various guests.

Absent: Alderperson Guin and Attorney Arceneaux.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Presswood.

Invocation given by Lee.

Questions and Statements of Citizens

Chris Lacobee and other citizens expressed concern regarding the yard at 211 Jo Lacy. The Mayor stated the property owner was fined for the junk and now he has received one for noise ordinance. The Parish is also aware of the problem and has seen how he is relocating the dirt.

Motion by J. Fuller to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting February 14, 2017. Second by Lee. All voted yea.

Old Business

Public Hearing on Ordinance 1 of 2017 (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 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Public Hearing opened 7:25 p.m. there being no comments the hearing closed at 7:26 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 1 of 2017 (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 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Ordinance 1 of 2017

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 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

WHEREAS, Section 172 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statues of 1950 provides for annexation by petition; and,

WHEREAS, a petition signed by more than the required percentage in value of the area described below has been filed with the Town Council to annex and bring within the corporate limits of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana, the following described property, to-wit:

LOT TWO (2), OSWALD SUBDIVISION, a subdivision in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded in Book 2150, page 457 of the Conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon. (Municipal Address: 5841 North Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71107-Geo. #191431-011-0002-00)
(Map of Survey - Exhibit “A” attached)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard in due, legal and regular session convened, that the limits and boundaries of the Town of Blanchard are hereby changed to include within the limits and boundaries of said Town the above described property.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the property described above be zoned "Light Commercial".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Town Clerk be and is hereby authorized to file, within ten (10) days of the final passage of this ordinance with the Clerk of the First Judicial District Court for Caddo Parish, a description of the entire boundary of the municipality as changed by this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that 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 described severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or Resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion was made by Lee, seconded by J. Fuller to adopt Ordinance 1 of 2017.

Roll Call:

YEAS: Fuller, Lee, Umling, and Whittington.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Guin.

ABSTAIN: None.

And Ordinance 1 of 2017 was adopted on this 14th day of March 2017.

New Business

Acceptance of Water Line Dedication from Walmart.

Motion by J. Fuller, second by Lee to accept the Act of Dedication presented by Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust for waterline improvements including a 12" diameter water main, along with associated appurtenances including, but not limited to new fire hydrants, fittings and valves. All voted yea.

Resolution 6 of 2017 – A Resolution Memorializing Support for Lowering the Speed Limit along Highway 1 between Old Mooringsport Road and Interstate 49 and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Resolution 6 of 2017

A Resolution Memorializing Support for Lowering the Speed Limit Along Highway 1 between Old Mooringsport Road and Interstate 49 and otherwise providing for respect thereto.

WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Blanchard who frequent the corridor of Highway 1 between Old Mooringsport Road and Interstate 49 ("Area of Concern"), the Town wishes to memorialize and make public its concern for the safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the speed limit along the Area of Concern is 55 mph, and motorists frequently exceed that speed limit; and

WHEREAS, there is a great deal of commercial development along the Area of Concern, with number vehicles often entering and exiting the roadway along the Area of Concern; and

WHEREAS, there have been a number of preventable accidents along the Area of Concern, and future accidents may be avoidable if the speed limit were lowered to 45 mph; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the Town has been approached by concerned citizens advocating for the speed limit in the Area of Concern to be lowered to 45 mph; and

WHEREAS, for all of the reasons stated herein, the Town wishes to memorialize its support for the speed limit in the Area of Concern to be lowered to 45 mph.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard, in due, legal and regular session convened, that it be hereby memorialized and evidenced that the Town of Blanchard fully supports the lowering of the speed limit along Highway 1 between Old Mooringsport Road and Interstate 49 to 45 mph for the good and safety of its citizens, which support is further pledged by the Chief of Police of the Town of Blanchard. After much discussion, motion was made by Lee to accept Resolution 6 of 2017, second by J. Fuller.

Yea: Lee, J. Fuller, and Whittington.

Nay: Umling.

Absent: Guin.

Abstain: None.

And Resolution 6 of 2017 was adopted on this 14th day of March, 2017.

Bid Acceptance for LCDBG project (formerly East Cove Water System).

After the Council reviewed a letter and tabulation of bids from Balar for the LCDBG project, motion was made by J. Fuller to award a construction contract to Budd's Construction of Haughton, LLC. in the amount of \$388,064.97. Second by Lee. All voted yea.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds

Umling-nothing to report. Lee asked what about the discussion a long time ago re: opening the drive thru window? Umling stated no money. Mayor told P. Fuller to have his guys come and move the filing cabinets from the drive thru window so it can be evaluated what needs to be done to get the drive thru back in working order. P. Fuller told Mayor he would pencil it in but the guys are pretty busy right now. After much discussion, it was decided that the cost needs to be determined to put in next year's budget to open up the drive thru, fix the base of the columns in front of Town Hall, and plant flowers in front of it. Umling asked if that meant he would have some money soon and Lee stated yes it will be in the next budget. D. Smith told Lee that the numbers will be on the paper, but that does not mean that the money will be in the bank. Lee stated that other areas will have to be cut then.

Streets and Rights of Way

Whittington-Parish will be shutting down the bridges near Blanchard Furrh around the Fall of 2017.

Water Department

J. Fuller-Some of the LCDBG bids were under budget. The standpipe repair is ongoing.

Sewer Department

Guin absent-Mayor asked P. Fuller for report for sewer. He stated everything good.

Police Department

Chief-nothing to report.

Treasurer Report

Lee-nothing to report.

Comments by the Mayor

Mayor reported:

- a. Sludge project will have to go back out for bids. The ad stated to submit in triplicate but only two companies did that and they were significantly higher. Now the “triplicate” wording has now been removed and will not be required in the future.
- b. Blanchard has officially closed on the East Mooringsport Water System and those customers have been given 30 days to pay their deposit and complete a Users Agreement. If that is not done by March 23, 2017 then they will be cut off when Blanchard Utilities starts reading meters for the first billing.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Lee. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Debra Smith, Town Clerk