

MINUTES OF THE  
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 11, 2017  
7:00 O’CLOCK

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

**Absent:** None.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by J. Fuller.

Invocation given by Arceneaux.

**Questions and Statements of Citizens**

Many citizens expressed extreme concern over 211 Jo Lacy and the appearance of same. After much discussion, the Mayor and Council informed the citizens that there is a process that must be followed regarding ordinance violations. Action has been taken as much as possible in the timely manner required by the ordinances. The local Constable has issued a citation, Caddo Parish has installed silt fencing and cleared up the ditches. The owner has been told that the fencing must remain in place and he is not permitted to go beyond it. Mr. Marty Julian has been issued three summons to appear in Mayor’s Court. He attended April 5, 2017 regarding one and is scheduled to attend May 3, 2017 for the other two.

Motion by Lee to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting March 14 and Special Meeting March 28, 2017. Second by J. Fuller. All voted yea.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Amend Agenda**

Motion by Whittington to suspend the rules and add a matter not on the agenda, which is Petition of Future Islands, LLC (HealthCARE Express) for annexation of property into the town limits of Blanchard, located at 4526 Northport Boulevard, Shreveport, Louisiana. The purpose for this addition to the agenda is to accept the said Petition. Second by J. Fuller. Open for public comments at 7:17 p.m. there being no comments, hearing closed at 7:18 p.m. The motion moved to a roll call vote and the following was had:

YEAS: Fuller, Guin, Lee, Umling, and Whittington.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Annexation Petition**

Motion by Lee to accept a petition from Future Islands, LLC for annexation into the Town of Blanchard. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

**Introduce Ordinance 2 of 2017 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana of the Property Described as a Certain Tract or Parcel**

**of Land Situated in Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Containing 26.66 Acres, More or Less Located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.**

Whittington introduced the following by Title only to be voted on at the May 9, 2017 Council Meeting.

Ordinance 2 of 2017

An Ordinance to Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana of the Property Described as a Certain Tract or Parcel of Land Situated in Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Containing 26.66 Acres, more or less, located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

**Report of Departments**

**Buildings and Grounds**

Umling-nothing to report. After much discussion it was decided that Umling can now get quotes for installing a new drawer and microphone as well as closing up the hole that was under the filing cabinets to get the drive-through in working condition again.

**Streets and Rights of Way**

Whittington-Blanchard Furrh should be back open in three weeks. He currently does not have a list of the roads that will be treated by the Parish but will notify the Council when he has one.

**Water Department**

J. Fuller-The standpipe repair is still ongoing and the contractor will not be paid anything else until the problem is fully resolved. Line replacement, fire hydrants, and meter installations funded by the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) will begin in the former East Cove area around June 5, 2017. A bid opening will be held April 19, 2017 at Town Hall for the Sludge project that is being funded by 2012 DHH Bonds.

**Sewer Department**

Guin-Katy Circle lift station needs to be replaced ASAP. It is completely down and the motors are from the 1970s. Mayor stated they are requesting bids, although not required since the project will be less than \$150,000.00 as stated in the bid law. Guin said he would like to know who the bids come from and how much they are. Mayor assured him that it will be done.

**Police Department**

Chief-stated as referenced in Louisiana RS 42:1123.15, policy must be in place re: law enforcement officers and the use of publicly owned vehicles (a handout was provided). He asked the Council review Blanchard Police Department Secondary Employment Part IV.D and IV.E. as stated. He needs only a simple motion, second, and vote by the Council in the minutes of the next available meeting.

**Treasurer Report**

Lee-nothing to report.

**Comments by the Mayor**

Mayor reported:

- a. Economic Development and Zoning Board will be sponsoring spring cleanup in Blanchard April 22-23. Dumpsters will be provided by Republic Services at no charge.

- b. Met with Gary Fontana of Governmental Consulting Services, LLC and discussed grants the Town could apply for. Each Council member has an application packet for their review for LCDBG funding. Mayor asked they look over and decide what activity they would prefer the Town to apply for. He also asked if there were any questions, concerns, or comments. There were none. There are samples of motions that will need to be acted on at the May 9, 2017 Council meeting. J. Fuller suggested that this grant be used to help with the standpipe problem.

Lee asked P. Fuller to have his guys move the extra dirt from the cemetery.

Lee also notified the Council she is trying to get the Methodist Church to donate the cemetery land to the Town so the Town can take over the maintenance. Currently nobody at the Church is even aware that the land belonged to them.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by J. Fuller. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:41 p.m.

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Jim Galambos, Mayor

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Debra Smith, Town Clerk