

MINUTES OF THE  
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 8, 2014  
7:00 O’CLOCK

**Present:** Mayor Digilormo, Alderpersons Ashby, Guin, Jones, and Whittington, Attorney Arceneaux, Lonnie Smith, Perry Fuller, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various guests.

**Absent:** Alderperson Lee, Chief Presswood, David Yeates.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ashby.

Invocation given by Arceneaux.

**Questions and Statements of Citizens:** Ms. Debi Valentine with Southern Bell Divas requested the use of the Town Hall for rehearsals. Ms. Valentine asked for a variance for the rental fee. Motion by Jones to allow the Southern Bell Divas to rent Town Hall for \$25.00 per night. Second by Ashby. All voted yea.

Mr. Clarence Ardoin, currently a customer on East Cove Water System, Mr. Mike Milan and Mr. Joey Ryan, currently customers on East Mooringsport Water System, all expressed concern as to if and/or when the Town of Blanchard would be providing water to their existing water systems. It was explained to Mr. Ardoin that the East Cove Water System still belongs to Rusty Miller and the Town of Blanchard does not have the authority to just go in and take over the system. Jones stated that the water line to East Cove was laid with the intent to help those people and the Town of Blanchard still has that intent, if the details can get worked out. The Town could sell bulk water tomorrow to East Cove residents if the details were worked out. After much discussion, the Council explained to the people that currently East Mooringsport has a USDA lien in excess of \$150,000.00 placed on the system. The Town of Blanchard can provide bulk water to the people, but cannot take on the additional debt. If the USDA would agree to wave the lien, the problem would be resolved. The Council suggested the people contact Fleming, Landrieu, and Vitter and ask them for support. The Town of Blanchard would also provide a letter of support for the people in hopes that the USDA would eliminate the lien against the East Mooringsport Water System.

Mr. John Fuller provided an update on the alcohol sales petition to the Council. Approximately 600 signatures are still needed.

Jones requested an amendment to the June 10, 2014, under New Business where it reads as follows:

“Jones stated a legal opinion should be obtained regarding the amounts allowed for the Mayor, Alderpersons, and Supervisors to expend.” be deleted from the minutes.

Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Motion by Jones to accept the minutes as amended for the Regular Meeting June 10, 2014, and Special Meeting June 24, 2014. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

**Old Business**

**Discussion regarding Renovation of Town Hall and Community Center Use.**

Mayor stated that he asked Arceneaux to rescind the request for the Attorney General opinion and, as the Board requested, the Town Hall will continue to be used as a Community Center. Jones thanked the Mayor for that.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion with Jennifer Kihlken-DHH regarding East Cove**

Mrs. Kihlken was unable to attend but will be at the workshop scheduled for July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

**Shreve Memorial Library cooperative endeavor.**

Motion by Jones to accept the cooperative endeavor. Second by Ashby. All voted yea.

**Rezoning petition for Reid Brau, Betty Miller, and Carol Labenne**

Motion by Jones to defer to the Zoning Board. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

**Introduce Ordinance 7 of 2014**

Jones introduced the following Ordinance to be voted on at the August 12, 2014, Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 7 OF 2014

An Ordinance to Enlarge the Limits and Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana as more fully shown on the attached property descriptions, located in Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 19 North, Range 15, West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

**Report of Departments**

**Buildings and Grounds**

Whittington reported he, Lee, and Chief Presswood looked at the damage at the storage building. A bid of \$2,075.00 for the storage building roof repair was received. Whittington stated the Chief of Police will be handling stuff inside the building. Motion by Jones to spend the \$2,075.00. Second by Ashby. All voted yea.

**Streets and Rights of Way**

Jones reported she is working with Mr. Ward of the parish and she has reported the pothole at the railroad crossing.

**Water Department**

Ashby stated the packet contained a summary of a meeting with DHH. Looks as if at least another 2-3 weeks before the plant is completely running.

**Sewer Department**

Guin stated he would like to discuss different fees and structures at a workshop.

**Police Department**

Presswood at a conference.

**Treasurer Report**

Lee absent.

**Comments by the Mayor**

A Zoning Board meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Special Council meeting. Ashby and Jones both stated they would be out of town that week. Motion by Jones to adjourn, second by Ashby. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.

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Johnny Digilormo, Mayor

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Debra Smith, Town Clerk