

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
7:00 O'CLOCK

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Fuller, Guin, Lee, Umling, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Atty. 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 Chief.

Invocation given by Lee.

Questions and Statements of Citizens

None.

Motion by Fuller to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting August 9, 2016. Second by Whittington. All voted yea.

Motion by Lee to suspend the rules and add a matter not on the agenda which is Resolution 10 of 2016, and the purpose for this addition is to present a Resolution to the council for the Town to apply for an LGAP (Local Governmental Assistance Grant) grant to replace or repair fire hydrants. Second by Fuller. Mayor opened for public comment at 7:03 p.m. There being no public comment, it closed at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Resolution 10 of 2016 added as line item six under New Business.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

Jay Lindsay representing Camp Gladiator would like to address the Council.

Mr. Lindsay did not attend.

Approval of Northwood High School's Homecoming Parade to be September 29, 2016.

The route will be the same block as last year.

Motion by Whittington, second by Lee. All voted yea.

Resolution 8 of 2016-A Resolution approving, confirming, and ratifying certain right of way agreements necessary for the Blanchard Public Water System improvements, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Resolution 8 of 2016

A Resolution Approving, Confirming, and Ratifying certain Right of Way Agreements necessary for the Blanchard Public Water System Improvements, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard ("Town") must install a pipeline to carry uncontaminated, treated water byproduct from the Town's Water Treatment Plant ("Plant") to a discharge point in Caddo Lake ("Project"); and,

WHEREAS, certain rights of way ("Rights of Way") must be acquired by the Town to install the new pipeline.

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, or such other person elected as mayor of the Town ("Mayor"), is and was authorized to acquire, on behalf of the Town, any and all Rights of Way necessary for the completion of the Project and, further, that he is and was authorized to execute any agreement or document thereto, subject to the ratification and confirmation of such agreement or document by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town.
- Section 2. The Town will not expend more than \$15,000 acquiring the Rights of Way for the Project.
- Section 3. The purchase price for the Rights of Way shall be appropriated from the Water Operating account, and shall be included in the budget as a Sludge Removal-Water Plant item. The purchase price should be reimbursed to the Town from bond proceeds furnished by the DHH-DWRLF, which reimbursement shall be facilitated by the Project engineers. However, failure of reimbursement to the Town shall not affect the validity of this resolution.
- Section 4. The Mayor is and was authorized to approve the issuance of checks payable to the grantors of any Rights of Way, subject to the ratification and confirmation of such payment by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town.
- Section 5. The Right of Way Agreement between the Town and Leo A. Dillahunty, attached hereto, is hereby approved, confirmed and ratified by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town. Further, the Board of Alderpersons approves, confirms, and ratifies the payment for the Right of Way made by the Town to Mr. Dillahunty.
- Section 6. The Right of Way Agreement between the Town and the Elliott Living Trust (Charles R. Elliott and Vicky Elliott, Trustees), attached hereto, is hereby approved, confirmed and ratified by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town. Further, the Board of Alderpersons approves, confirms, and ratifies the payment for the Right of Way made by the Town to the Trustees of the Trust.
- Section 7. The Right of Way Agreement between the Town and the Town of Mooringsport, attached hereto, is hereby approved, confirmed and ratified by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town. Further, the Board of Alderpersons approves, confirms, and ratifies the payment for the Right of Way made by the Town to the Town of Mooringsport.
- Section 8. 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 9. All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion to accept Resolution 8 of 2016 made by Whittington, second by Fuller. All voted yea. And Resolution 8 of 2016 was adopted on this 13th day of September, 2016.

Resolution 9 of 2016-Adopt property tax millage due to error shown on previous resolution.

Resolution 9 of 2016

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Blanchard of the Parish of Caddo, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on September 13, 2016, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2016, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE

General Fund Operating	6.33 mills
Sewer System	3.01 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of Caddo, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2016 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, motion made by Whittington, second by Umling and the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

Brian Anderson still interested in buying property south of Town that had been used for booster station and water storage.

Motion by Whittington to NOT declare that property as surplus and the Town is not selling that property at this time. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

Resolution 10 of 2016-A Resolution to Apply for Funding through the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) Administered by the Office of Community Development for the State of Louisiana for: Replacement or Repair of needed Fire Hydrants.

Resolution 10 of 2016

A Resolution to Apply for Funding through the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) Administered by the Office of Community Development for the State of Louisiana for:
Replacement or Repair of needed Fire Hydrants.

WHEREAS, The Town of Blanchard has its own Water Department, and

WHEREAS, The Blanchard Utilities Department serves an estimated 3,300 citizens within the town limits, and an estimated 8,150 citizens outside the town limits, for a total of 11,450 citizens, and

WHEREAS, The Blanchard Utilities Department has approximately 320 fire hydrants on the system that provides fire protection for the approximately 11,450 citizens on the Water System, and

WHEREAS, The Blanchard Utilities Department has fire hydrants that are in urgent need of replacement or repair to provide fire protection for said citizens on the Water System;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the Council of the Town of Blanchard do hereby request funding in the amount of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND & NO/100 (\$35,000.00) DOLLARS, to assist in the replacement or repair of the aforesaid fire hydrants.

The foregoing was read, considered, and adopted on this 13th day of September, 2016, by motion of Lee, duly seconded by Fuller.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

And Resolution 10 of 2016 was adopted on this 13th day of September, 2016.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds

Umling-if everything goes good, the asphalt grinding will happen this weekend on the North side of the tennis court and basketball court.

Guin asked Chief Presswood to check into things going on after dark with the lights off at the tennis courts.

Chief reported needed A/C repair at a cost of \$618.00 Accu Temp recommended replacing the entire unit.

Streets and Rights of Way

Whittington-nothing to report. He thanked Chief Presswood for keeping Council informed re: new road at Wal-Mart. Chief said maybe the type of stop signs used up there could be used for school zone signs.

Water Department

J. Fuller-reported the Right of Ways contracts needed for the sludge project have now been signed. The VFD has apparently been struck by lightning several time and needs replacing at an approximate cost of \$8,000.00. Getting bids for the three lift stations that need repair. Mayor referred to P. Fuller for update on standpipe. The approximate cost is between \$120,000 and \$140,000 with a one-year guarantee. To tear down and start over is approximately \$300,000. Alderman J. Fuller, Mayor, and P. Fuller have attended meetings at the fire department to get help with money to repair/replace fire hydrants. That is why the Town is trying to get LGAP grant to help with the cost. Mayor commented that P. Fuller has done an amazing job last two months feeling a big void and making sure things are brought forward to be addressed.

Sewer Department

Guin-nothing to report.

Police Department

Chief-Caddo Parish Commission approved funding of new police vehicle. It took all but \$2,000.00 for the vehicle alone, not counting the necessary equipment.

Treasurer Report

Lee-Capital One is closing the Northwood Branch so the Town will be moving accounts from Capital One to banks located in the town limits. This would include Home Federal Bank, if they were to annex into Blanchard. After discussion, the consensus was bank accounts should only be in the banks located within the town limits.

Comments by the Mayor

Mayor Galambos reported:

- a. He, J. Fuller, and P. Fuller had met with people re: Right of Ways. Mayor delivered signed paperwork to Tom's office.
- b. Met with a customer located outside town limits, but on Blanchard's Water System re: flushing at his property. Mayor told customer that the flushing valve's direction would be changed but the town cannot do anything with the road since it is a private road.
- c. He was given a tour of Lakeview Water System.
- d. Cook & Morehart auditors will be here on site starting September 14, 2016.
- e. He has not heard anything from the Legislative Auditors re: the audit they were doing here recently.
- f. He received an Attorney General's (AG) opinion re: water bill reductions from Chief Presswood. The opinion states that the water cannot be reduced because that is considered giving it (water) away. After much discussion, Mayor stated he would like to keep the discount policy suspended until Attorney Arceneaux can review the opinion and contact the Council with the findings.
- g. P. Fuller put together a spreadsheet of fire hydrants that need replacing/repairing and the approximate cost would be \$58,000 to replace the old Drexler hydrants inside town limits. At the Fire department's suggesting, the Mayor asked Caddo Parish Commissioner Doug Dominick for help with the situation. Mr. Dominick stated he will go to the Commission on behalf of Blanchard after he receives more information.
- h. P. Fuller has already repaired eleven hydrants from the original list provided.

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

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Debra Smith, Town Clerk