

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2016
7:00 O’CLOCK

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Lee, Alderpersons Fuller, Guin, Umling, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Atty. Tom Arceneaux, Perry Fuller, David Yeates, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various guests.

Absent: Mayor Digilormo.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Lee.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Umling.

Invocation given by Arceneaux.

Questions and Statements of Citizens: None.

Motion by Whittington to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting December 8, 2015. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

Whittington asked for a letter of intent from Mr. Anderson along with how long Anderson thinks it will take to get the property ready for his intentions. Guin asked Yeates if there is any interest or plans in the future for that piece of property. Yeates said there may still be some pipes there. Whittington will look up when the property was acquired and from whom. The Council decided on a postponement until the February Council meeting.

Introduce Ordinance 1 of 2016-SWEPKO Franchise Agreement renewal.

The following ordinance title was introduced by Whittington and will be voted on at the February 9, 2016, Council meeting.

Ordinance 1 of 2016

An Ordinance, Granting Unto Southwestern Electric Power Company, the Right, Privilege, and Franchise to Acquire, Construct, Erect, Maintain, Repair, Reconstruct, Remove, and Operate a System of Electric Power Lines, Wires, Transformers, Communication Cables, and Other Related and Necessary or Desirable Appurtenances In, Under, Over, Across, Through, and Along Any and All of the Present and Future Streets, Avenues, Alleys, Thoroughfares, Roads, Highways, Sidewalks, Bridges, and Public Grounds, and Public Places of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana, for the Purpose of Transmitting and Distributing Electric Power to the Town and Its Inhabitants and Any Other Person or Persons, Firms, and Corporations for a Term of Ten Years; Regulating the Use of Streets By the Company and Repair and Restoration of the Streets Disturbed by Construction; Providing for Compensation to be Paid to the Town; Providing that this Franchise Shall Not Be Exclusive; Providing the Company’s Obligations to Furnish Efficient Service; Providing for Indemnity by the Company to the Town; Providing for Conditional Forfeiture in Event of Default by the Company; Making Miscellaneous Provisions Relative to this Grant of Franchise; Providing for Acceptance by the Company; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date.

Travis Morehart, CPA with Cook and Morehart, audit report FYE 6/30/15.

Mr. Morehart elaborated on portions of the audit and stated there were no audit findings. Motion by Guin to accept the audit report. Second by Fuller. All voted yea. Mr. Morehart also recommends treading lightly re: meter deposit refunds. He stated that money helps to pay the final bill.

Report of Departments

Buildings and Grounds

Umling-nothing to report.

Streets and Rights of Way

Whittington left the meeting early.

Water Department

Fuller referred to Yeates. Yeates stated he is currently working on some cost savings and will have a full report at the next Council meeting. Fuller also has someone looking at the chemicals, cost of them, and how much used. If the consultant cannot show where money can be saved, then the review will not cost the Town anything.

Sewer Department

Guin stated this is what they have worked on for months and he is glad it is going like they wanted.

Police Department

Chief-nothing to report.

Treasurer Report

Lee stated to the Council to please review their monthly reports and watch their budgets.

Comments by the Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Lee stated a workshop is scheduled January 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Motion by Fuller to adjourn, second by Guin. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 7:43 p.m.

Patsy Lee, Mayor Pro Tem

Debra Smith, Town Clerk