

MINUTES OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
7:00 O'CLOCK

Present: Mayor Digilormo, Alderpersons Guin, Jones, Lee, and Whittington, Chief Presswood, Attorney Arceneaux, Lonnie Smith, Perry Fuller, David Yeates, Debra Smith-Town Clerk, and various citizens.

Absent: Alderperson Ashby.

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Lee.

Invocation given by Arceneaux.

Questions and Statements of Citizens:

Fire Chief Dan Cotten asked where the alcohol petition was at this point and volunteered to help with getting the necessary signatures. Chief Presswood stated that if the Wal-Mart were to come into the Town limits, it would help the Blanchard Police with approximately \$900,000 a year in sales tax money. After much discussion, the Board stated they would still accept the petition to put the alcohol issue on the ballot and let the voters decide.

Mr. Wade Visconte representing the Northwood Hills area expressed concern over Mr. Egan's annexation and development of the golf course. After much discussion, the attending citizens were asked if they were against the annexation, please stand. Nobody stood up.

Motion by Lee to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting August 4, 2014, Regular Meeting August 12, 2014, and Special Meeting August 14, 2014. Second by Jones. All voted yea.

Old Business

Public Hearing Ordinance 9 - An Ordinance to Amend Section 19-19 of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Blanchard relating to uses permitted in the Permanent One Family Residential (R/P) District and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Public Hearing opened 7:49 p.m., there being no comments the hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 9

Ordinance 9 of 2014

An Ordinance to Amend Section 19-19 of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Blanchard relating to uses permitted in the Permanent One Family Residential (R/P) District and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Blanchard, in due, legal and regular session convened, as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 19-19 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Blanchard is amended to add subsection (4) to read as follows:

(4) Golf courses, parks, or playgrounds.

SECTION 2: 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 declared severable.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Alderperson Lee to adopt Ordinance 9 of 2014. Second by Alderperson Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Guin, Jones, Lee, and Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Ashby

And Ordinance 9 of 2014 was adopted and made effective this 9th day of September, 2014.

Public Hearing Ordinance 7 - 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 34, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Public Hearing opened 7:50 p.m., there being no comments the hearing closed at 7:51 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 7

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.

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:

ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A", consisting of six (6) pages

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 "Permanent One Family Residential ("R/P")

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 made by Alderperson Whittington to adopt Ordinance 7 of 2014. Second by Alderperson Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Guin, Jones, Lee, and Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Ashby

And Ordinance 7 of 2014 was adopted and made effective this 9th day of September, 2014.

Public Hearing Ordinance 8 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Section 23 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Blanchard, adopting new standards for the issuance and administration of the Building Permitting process in the Town of Blanchard, along with standards for the issuance of a certificate of occupancy in connection therewith, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Motion by Lee to defer to Workshop scheduled for September 23, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Second by Jones. All voted yea.

Vote on Ordinance 8

No action taken.

New Business

Water plant update

D. Smith reported that Alderperson Ashby unable to attend due to illness. She stated an email included in the packet states at the end of testing scheduled for the new water plant on September 11, 2014, the plant will be turned over to Blanchard Utilities to run as the Town sees fit.

Resolution 9 of 2014 - Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a purchase agreement with East Cove Utility, et al, regarding takeover of the East Cove water system.

Resolution 9 of 2014

A Resolution approving the Transfer of Certain Assets of the East Cove Water System to the Town of Blanchard, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard ("Town") is in the process of making improvements to the Blanchard Public Water System ("System") whose PWS ID No. is LA1017006 (the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, the owners of the East Cove Water System ("ECWS") desire to consolidate with or otherwise connect to the System to obtain a safe and steady supply of clean, potable water, and seek to achieve this by transferring certain of ECWS's assets to the Town, including without limitation all servitudes, rights, easements and rights of ingress and egress, all customer lists, documents, files and records relating to ECWS, and all equipment owned by ECWS, specifically excepting any water treatment plant owned or operated by ECWS or any land on which such water treatment plant may be situated (all of which are referred to as the "Transferred Assets"); and

WHEREAS, the Town is willing to take over ECWS through the transfer of the Transferred Assets as set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to enter into a Conveyance of Movable and Immovable Property – Water System Assets with each of the owners of ECWS (the "Conveyance") which transfers the Transferred Assets of ECWS to the Town, which Conveyance is attached hereto and incorporated herein, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Conveyance, or a document in substantially the same form and substance as the Conveyance, on behalf of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town, that the Town is authorized to enter into the Conveyance, and that the Mayor is authorized to execute the Conveyance on behalf of the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion by Jones to adopt Resolution 9 of 2014, second by Whittington. The vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Guin, Jones, Lee, and Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ashby

ABSTAIN: None

And Resolution 9 of 2014 was adopted on this 9th day of September, 2014.

Update regarding the East Mooringsport Water System.

USDA needs appraisal before accepting the offer from Blanchard Utilities; therefore, no information provided for a vote at this time. Mr. Mike Knutsen, newly elected President of East Mooringsport Water System (EMWS), stated to the Board that EMWS is ready to sign over the system to Blanchard Utilities. Jones asked if there can be a vote subject to confirmation. Arceneaux stated he could have that ready on September 23, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. The workshop at this time became a Special Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. followed by a workshop immediately afterward.

Blanchard Lake Estates street light placement to be voted on by Council

Motion by Whittington to accept the light placement, second by Jones. All voted yea.

KSA Alliance-Lanny Buck to speak to the Council re: future business in Blanchard

Mr. Lanny Buck and Mr. Buddy Stroud notified the Council that they are an engineering firm that can help the Town with Capital Outlay projects and many others that the Town may need to do.

Report of Departments

Motion by Lee to dispense with report of departments except for the Chief of Police.

Police Department

Chief asked the Council to consider hiring Michael Crisp as an auxiliary officer. Motion made by Jones, second by Guin. All voted yea.

Motion by Whittington to adjourn, second by Lee. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

Johnny Digilormo, Mayor

Debra Smith, Town Clerk