

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Fuller, Chief Presswood, Candy Foshee, Town Clerk, Perry Fuller, Utility Supervisor, William Bradford, Attorney

Mayer called meeting to order at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Presswood

Invocation given by Lee

Questions and Statements of Citizens – None

Motion by Whittington, second by Fuller to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2021. All present voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing - Ordinance 6 of 2021 – An Ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of not to exceed Eleven Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$11,600,000) of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, of the Town of Blanchard, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds, designating the date, denomination and place of payment of said Bonds, providing for the payment thereof in principal and interest, authorizing the agreement with the Paying Agent; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (Introduced March 9, 2021)

Public Hearing was opened at 6:02. There being no comments in favor of or against Ordinance 6 of 2021, the public hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 6 of 2021

Said Ordinance having been read and introduced on the 9th day of March, 2021 by Mayor Galambos, notice of a public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, on motion of Lee, second by Whittington., to adopt the ordinance, a roll call vote was taken, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Presley

ABSTAIN: None

And Ordinance 6 of 2021 was adopted on this 11th day of May, 2021.

**ORDINANCE 6 OF 2021 IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT BLANCHARD TOWN HALL
DURING THE HOURS OF 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY. CALL 318-929-7593.**

Public Hearing – Ordinance 7 of 2021 - an Ordinance to amend and restate Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances for the town of Blanchard, requiring commercial water customers or customers required to possess authorization to conduct commercial business in the town of Blanchard to remain current on all local licenses and related fees in order to maintain water service from the town of Blanchard, Blanchard Utilities; requiring notice by certified mail to all non-compliant customers; authorizing the disconnection of water services thirty (30) days following notice by the utility to the customer, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Introduced March 9, 2021)

Public Hearing was opened at 6:04. There being no comments in favor of or against Ordinance 7 of 2021, the public hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 7 of 2021

ORDINANCE 7 OF 2021

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RESTATE CHAPTER 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, REQUIREING COMMERCIAL WATER CUSTOMERS OR CUSTOMERS REQUIRED TO POSSESS AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT COMMERCIAL BUSINESS IN THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD TO REMAIN CURRENT ON ALL LOCAL LICENSES AND RELATED FEES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN WATER SERVICE FROM THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, BLANCHARD UTILITIES; REQUIRING NOTICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL TO ALL NON-COMPLIANT CUSTOMERS; AUTHORIZING THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER SERVICES THIRTY (30) DAYS FOLLOWING NOTICE BY THE UTILITY TO THE CUSTOMER, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Chapter 6(A) of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Blanchard sets forth the requirements of each business conducting business in the Town of Blanchard; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.5. sets forth that “Any person violating any of the provisions of the this article shall be punished as provided in Section 27.7 of this code, and each day’s violation shall constitute a separate offense;” and

WHEREAS, this ordinance provides alternative punitive measures to encourage compliance with this Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana in due, legal and regular session convened, that Chapter 6 be amended in the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana Code of Ordinances, to read as follows:

ARTICLE A: BUSINESS LICENSES

SECTION 6.5 Penalty for Violation

As set forth in Section 6.7 below, any business found to be in violation of the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to disconnection of water services provided by the Town of Blanchard.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall be punished as provided in Section 27.7 of this code, and each day’s violation shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 6.7 Procedure for Disconnection of Water Service Pursuant to Section 6.5

As set forth in Section 6.3 above, all license taxes levied herein shall be due and collectible during the first two (2) months of the year, and all unpaid License taxes shall become delinquent on March first. All License taxes due by persons commencing business after February first, shall become delinquent on the eleventh day after the commencement of business. This section provides the procedure for the disconnection of water services as set forth in Section 6.5 above.

- A. Within thirty (30) calendar days of delinquency, the Town of Blanchard shall notify the delinquent commercial account holder of its failure to pay the required taxes and fees as set forth in this Chapter by providing a notice, in writing, that outlines the amount due to the offending party. Such notice shall be made by U.S. Mail Return Receipt Requested. In the event the commercial account holder refuses to accept delivery of the Town’s correspondence, the Town

Clerk shall execute an affidavit setting forth that delivery of the correspondence to the commercial account holder was refused.

- B. The offending party shall remediate its delinquency within thirty (30) calendar days of its delinquency date, regardless of its receipt of the notice set forth in 6.7(A) above.
- C. Following thirty (30) calendar days, and at 8:00 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) calendar day, any commercial account holder that is still not compliant is subject to disconnection of water services. The Town, acting through its wholly owned water utility department, may disconnect water service to the offending place of business.
- D. The offending place of business shall be obligated to satisfy its outstanding debts, including any reconnection fees as outlined in this Code, prior to the reinstatement of water service to the place of business.

SECTION 6.8 Through 6.10 Reserved.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective on upon passage.

THUS DONE AND ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana.

Said Ordinance having been read and introduced on the 9th day of March, 2021 by Whittington, notice of a public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, on motion of Lee, second by Whittington, to adopt the ordinance, a roll call vote was taken, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Whittington
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

And Ordinance 7 of 2021 was adopted on this 11th day of May, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for K.C. Kilpatrick – “Remarkable Woman of 2021”

Mayor Galambos read a proclamation proclaiming Wednesday, May 12, 2021 as “K. C. Kilpatrick Day”. The proclamation honored K. C. for her organization Geaux 4 Kids and Project Geaux Bags, which change the way kids enter foster care and to make that first night in foster care easier. The Town of Blanchard would like to recognize K. C. Kilpatrick and congratulate her as being chosen the “Ark-La-Texas Remarkable Woman of 2021” and to celebrate her life of service to others.

Introduction of Ordinance 9 of 2021 - An Ordinance To Enlarge The Boundaries Of The Town Of Blanchard To Include A Certain Parcel Or Tract Of Land Located In Sections 30 And 31, Township 19 North, Range 14 West, And In Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Northwestern Land District, Louisiana Meridian, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Said Tract Containing 3.542 Acres, More Or Less, And Otherwise Providing With Respect Thereto (La Hwy. 1 North Right Of Way)

Mayor Galambos read and introduced Ordinance 9 of 2021.

Introduction of Ordinance 10 of 2021 - An Ordinance to Amend the Budget for the Town of Blanchard for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Mayor Galambos read and introduced Ordinance 10 of 2021.

Introduction of Ordinance 11 of 2021 - An Ordinance to Adopt the Budget for the Town of Blanchard for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Mayor Galambos read and introduced Ordinance 11 of 2021.

Accept annexation petition of Red River Land & Investment Co., Inc. – a 9.48 acre tract, more or less, located in Section 31, Township 19 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

and

Accept annexation petition of W. P. Baucum, Inc. – a tract of land described as Lot 2, Gross Acres and adjacent thirty-five (35”) foot strip and a fifty (50”) foot strip out of Lot 32, Blanchard Estates Addition, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

and

Accept annexation petition of HP Investments, LLC – a tract of land described as a 1.48 acre tract, more or less, located in Section 27, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Whittington made a motion to accept the annexation petitions of Red River Land & Investment Co., Inc., W. P. Baucum, Inc. and HP Investments, LLC “in globo”, second by Lee. After a brief discussion with John Flippo, representing HP Investments, LLC., all voted yea to accept the three petitions..

Authorization to open a new checking account titled “Town of Blanchard Meter Deposit Fund” at Citizen’s Bank & Trust Company and to transfer funds from existing Meter Deposit Fund account at Citizen’s Bank & Trust Company into new account

Lee made motion authorizing Mayor Galambos to open a new checking account titled “Town of Blanchard Meter Deposit Fund” at Citizen’s Bank & Trust Company and to transfer funds from the existing Meter Deposit Fund account at Citizen’s Bank & Trust Company into the new account. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

April 2021 financials (to be emailed when completed)

The April 2021 financials will be emailed when the bank statements are received and reconciled.

REPORT FROM:

Perry Fuller, Utility Manager – Month of April – 7 meter sets, 48 locates, 18 located made by the town. Bel-Di-Gil project is making good progress. The altitude valve project at the elevated water tank is progressing as well.

Gary Presswood, Chief of Police – at next meeting declare the 2009 Tahoe VIN5754 as surplus.

Kevin Sandifer, Historian – gathering information, stories, pictures, etc. for the 125th anniversary of the Town of Blanchard.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Held construction meeting last week at town hall on the progress of the Bel-Di-Gil project. Presently working on budget for 2021-2022 and the amendments to 2020-2021 budget. Also working on list for possible projects for ARPA funds to be received from the state.

There being no further business, motion made by Whittington, second by Fuller to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Candy Foshee, Town Clerk