

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

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

Mayor called meeting to order at 6:00

Pledge of Allegiance led by Guin

Invocation given by Lee

Questions and Statements of Citizens - None

Lee made motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes of December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022, Special Meeting of February 1, 2022 and Regular meeting of February 8, 2022. Second by Fuller. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request a Resolution from the Caddo Parish Commission with reference to changing the two-way stop intersection at Magnolia Woods and Northwood Hills to a four-way stop intersection due to safety concerns

Motion by Fuller, second by Lee, to request a Resolution from the Caddo Parish Commission regarding the two-way stop intersection at Magnolia Woods and Northwood Hills to a four-way stop intersection due to safety concerns. All voted yea.

Introduction of Ordinance 2 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include a 5.608 acre tract, more or less, located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 19 North, Range 14 West and the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and otherwise providing with respect thereto (LA Hwy. 1 ROW)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 2 of 2022

Introduction of Ordinance 3 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include two certain parcels or tracts of land, both located in Section 32, Township 19 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, containing 2.18 acres and 7.728 acres, more or less, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Sara Denler Hudson)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 3 of 2022

Introduction of Ordinance 4 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include a parcel or tract of land, located in Section 6, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana containing 18.06 acres, less and except 0.519 and 0.91 acres, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (KCL Construction LLC)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 4 of 2022

Introduction of Ordinance 5 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include a parcel or tract of land, located in Section 30, Township 19 North, Range 14

West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana containing 0.646 acres, more or less, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Willis Knighton Medical Center)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 5 of 2022

Introduction of Ordinance 6 of 2022 – An Ordinance to amend Section 3.8 of the Code of ordinances for the Town of Blanchard, Louisiana, establishing compensation for elected and appointed officials and otherwise providing with respect thereto

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 6 of 2022

Resolution 1 of 2022 – Acknowledging that the Town Council has Reviewed an Internal Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report Concerning the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Facility

RESOLUTION 1 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS REVIEWED AN INTERNAL “MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION REPORT” CONCERNING THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

WHEREAS, the state permits under which the Town of Blanchard’s Wastewater Treatment Plant operates require an internal survey form to be completed annually and submitted to the Town Council for review; and

WHEREAS, forms for the past year have been completed by Town administrative personnel after consultation with engineering and operational personnel, and are attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Blanchard in due, legal and regular session convened, as follows:

That the Town Council acknowledges that it has reviewed the attached survey forms for the year 2021, and that the following actions have been set forth to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, number **LA0038903**,

- a. Continue to carry out the comprehensive plan for phased implementation of major equipment rehab/replacement as required by the amended compliance order. (Enforcement Tracking No. WE-C-11-00144A, A1 No. 40806)
- b. Continue to be proactive with reporting and preventative maintenance programs.
- c. Continue to modify and improve the collection system to reduce inflow and infiltration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or items of this resolution or the application hereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which 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 all resolutions or parts hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Fuller, second by Lee to accept Resolution 1 of 2022.

After being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Whittington

And Resolution 1 of 2022 was adopted on this 8th day of March, 2022.

Resolution 2 of 2022 – A Resolution to Support the Development of Passenger Rail Service from Fort Worth, Texas through Shreveport, Louisiana to Atlanta, Georgia along the I-20 Corridor and Related Issues

RESOLUTION 2 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FROM FORT WORTH, TEXAS THROUGH THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA ALONG THE I-20 CORRIDOR AND RELATED ISSUES

RESOLUTION MADE BY: TOWN OF BLANCHARD

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, Congress passed a major bi-partisan infrastructure bill, which includes some sixty -six (66) billion dollar allocation for passenger rail and Amtrak;

WHEREAS, connecting Fort Worth, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia, with points along the interstate 20 Corridor including the City of Shreveport would establish a passenger rail connection joining more than 14 million residents throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and connecting these states with the East Coast and onward north to New York;

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate 20 was constructed almost sixty years ago, and there has been no material increase in capacity, despite the population growth through these states of two to three times during the last two generations, and there appear to be no present plans to materially expand the existing four lanes of Interstate 20 for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, the I-20 Corridor Council, representing many cities and councils of governments along the proposed route obtained federal funding and has completed two important studies, including:

- 1) A 2015 Amtrak **feasibility study** which determined that a long-distance passenger rail connection could operate profitable over the existing railroad infrastructure would require no annual governmental subsidy, and
- 2) A 2017 **capacity study** suggested that a capital expenditure investment of less than \$80 million in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. This would represent a fraction of the cost of conventional highway construction and would enable new passenger rail service on the route without adversely affecting freight traffic along the host railroad; and

WHEREAS, the I-20 Rail Corridor service would provide an east-west connection consisting of two daily passenger trains for the regions of Dallas, Fort Worth and Atlanta, Georgia and would run through the City of Shreveport, and the proposed railway service will connect surrounding regions and result in increased economic viability for cities along the railway route for tourism and increased mobility by providing an alternative means of transportation; and,

WHEREAS, grassroots, multi-state coalitions including mayors, local, state and federal officials, business and economic leaders and many other stakeholders have shown great support for this opportunity

along the i-20 corridor and creating an economical and environmentally attractive addition to highway travel;

WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition of the Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) by Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) is pending before the United States Surface Transportation Board and the Canadian Pacific and Amtrak have announced plans to conduct a study to finalize a cooperative agreement to operate the passenger train for the I-20 Corridor along the trackage being acquired by Canadian Pacific;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Blanchard in legal session convened, here recognizes and supports the efforts to construct and operate a long-distance passenger rail connection along the I-20 corridor, also supports the approval of the Surface Transportation Board of the merger between Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific Railway, and further supports the efforts to improve o-time performance of Amtrak passenger trains with the host railroad carriers.

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 which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are thereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Lee, second by Fuller to accept Resolution 2 of 2022.

After being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Whittington

And Resolution 2 of 2022 was adopted on this 8th day of March, 2022.

Resolution 3 of 2022 - A Resolution of the Governing Body of the Town of Blanchard Authorizing Candy Foshee, Town Clerk, to Certify Signature(S) on the "Authorized Signature Form" for the FY2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Programs

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2022

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD
AUTHORIZING CANDY FOSHEE, TOWN CLERK, TO CERTIFY SIGNATURE(S) ON THE
"AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE FORM" FOR THE FY 2021-2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LGAP) AND COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND
(CWEF) PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, Jim Galambos, Mayor and Patsy A. Lee, Alderperson, are the authorized persons to sign any Requests for Payments pertaining to the FY 2021-2022 LGAP and CWEF programs.

WHEREAS, Jim Galambos, Mayor, cannot certify the signatures of himself and Patsy A. Lee,

WHEREAS, Candy Foshee, Town Clerk, is hereby authorized to certify the signatures of Jim Galambos, Mayor and/or Patsy A. Lee, Alderperson, on the Authorized Signature Form for the FY 2021-2022 LGAP and CWEF Programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Candy Foshee, Town Clerk, is hereby authorized to certify the signatures of Jim Galambos, Mayor and/or Patsy A. Lee, Alderperson, on the Authorized Signature Form for the 2021-2022 LGAP and CWEF Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Lee, second by Fuller to accept Resolution 3 of 2022.

After being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Whittington

And Resolution 3 of 2022 was adopted on this 8th day of March, 2022.

Introduction of Ordinance 7 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include a parcel or tract of land, located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana containing 1.506 acres, more or less, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Mikeebo, Inc.)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 7 of 2022

Introduction of Ordinance 8 of 2022 – An Ordinance to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Town of Blanchard to include a parcel or tract of land Being Lot 1, North Caddo Medical center Subdivision, plat recorded in Book 9050, page 31, records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, containing 2.00 acres, more or less, and otherwise providing with respect thereto (North Caddo Medical Center)

Mayor Galambos introduced and read by title only Ordinance 8 of 2022

Authorization from council for Mayor Galambos to accept and sign the contract from Republic Services for dumpster to be located at the Blanchard ballpark on N. Front Street

Motion by Fuller, second by Presley, to authorize Mayor Galambos to accept and signed the contract from republic Services for a dumpster to be located at the Blanchard ballpark on N. Front Street. All voted yea.

February 2022 financials to be emailed when completed

The financials will be emailed when completed

REPORT FROM:

Perry Fuller, Utility Manager – 2 road bores, repaired 4 leaks, repaired leak at sewer force main. Everything is running good.

Gary Presswood, Chief of Police – Mayor Galambos reported that Chief Presswood has a lead on hiring a new police officer

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR – Attorney Bradford gave an update on the Julian property and the Pinehill and Eagle Water contracts/donation.

Oil City has completed the bore under the lake but has not charged the line yet.

Bel-Di-Gil project – both permits have been issued.

Mayor gave update on meeting with ministers at First Baptist Church regarding purchasing property owned by the church .

Meeting on March 17 with developers to discuss the possibility of a hotel being built north of 1-49 on Highway 1.

Please support the Spring Farmers Market on March 12, held in parking lot First Baptist Church.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m., on motion of Fuller, second by Guin. All voted yea.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Candy Foshee, Town Clerk