

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLANCHARD MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Galambos, Alderpersons Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Whittington, Chief Allen, Attorney Bradford, Perry Fuller, Superintendent, Candy Foshee, Town Clerk and visitors.

Mayor Galambos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Allen

Invocation was given by Lee

Questions and Statements of Citizens – Jayne Tappe had questions

Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting of July 11, 2023 – motion made by Whittington to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of July 11, 2023, seconded by Lee. All voted yea.

Guin made motion to suspend the rules and add a matter not on the agenda under new business as line item 11 as follows: Recommendation by Chief Allen to hire William Mikesell as a Part-Time Patrol Officer. Seconded by Whittington. The matter was opened for public comment. There being no public comment the motion moved to a roll call vote:

YEAS – Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Whittington

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

ABSTAINED – None. The motion passed unanimously, and Item #11 was added to the end of the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Report from Economic Development and Zoning Board regarding re-zoning of Lot 1, Blanchard 2, being a subdivision of Lots 4 – 9, Block 8, Town of Blanchard, Louisiana (Geo# 181503-084-0001-00)

Mayor Galambos read the report from the Economic Development and Zoning Board regarding the re-zoning of Lot 1, Blanchard 2, being a subdivision of Lots 4-9, Block 8, Town of Blanchard, Louisiana (Geo# 181503-084-0001-00) After discussion and hearing public comment, the vote of the Zoning Board was favorable, with members Robertson, Foshee, Roberts, Liles and Beach voting unanimously to the re-zoning of the said lot to “L-2 – Sale of low or high alcohol content beverages for off-premise consumption only.” It is the recommendation of the Zoning Board to the Board of Alderpersons to accept the re-zoning.

Vote on rezoning of Lot 1, Blanchard 2, being a subdivision of Lots 4 – 9, Block 8, Town of Blanchard, Louisiana (Geo# 181503-084-0001-00)

Motion made by Fuller to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Board and re-zone Lot 1, Blanchard 2, being a subdivision of Lots 4-9, Block 8, Town of Blanchard, Louisiana to “L-2 – Sale of low or high alcohol content beverages for off-premise consumption only.” Second by Whittington. All vote yea.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 10 of 2023 – Annexation of forty (40) acre tract – Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (Wasson Road Company) (Introduced June 28, 2023)

Public hearing was opened at 6:09 p.m. There being no comments in favor of or against Ordinance 10 of 2023, the public hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 10 of 2023

ORDINANCE 10 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO ENLARGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD TO INCLUDE A PARCEL OR TRACT OF LAND, BEING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO (WASSON ROAD COMPANY LLC)

WHEREAS, Section 172 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes 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:

A tract of land being the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Northwest Louisiana Land District, being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Southwest Corner of Section 35 and a found 2” IP, proceed North 01 degrees 22 minutes 01 seconds East, a distance of 1330.50 feet to a 1/2 inch IR; Thence proceed South 88 degrees 50 minutes 10 seconds East, a distance of 1325.72 feet to a 2 1/2” IP; Thence proceed South 01 degrees 00 minutes 33 second West, a distance of 1335.04 feet to a 1/2” IP; Thence proceed North 88 degrees 38 minutes 28 seconds West, a distance of 1334.05 feet to the point of beginning of said tract, containing 1,772,426 sq ft/40.689 acres. (Geo.#: 191535-000-0009-00)

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 “R/P – Permanent One-Family Residential”.

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.

Said Ordinance having been read and introduced on the 28th day of June, 2023, by 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 Whittington, second by Lee, to adopt the ordinance, a roll call vote was taken and the following was had:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

And Ordinance 10 of 2023 was adopted this 8th day of August, 2023.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 11 of 2023 - An Ordinance to Change the Intersection at Northport Boulevard and Roy Road, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, to an “All-Way Intersection” and otherwise providing with respect thereto (Introduced July 11, 2023)

Public hearing was opened at 6:10 p.m. There being no comments in favor of or against Ordinance 11 of 2023, the public hearing was closed at 6:11 p.m.

Vote on Ordinance 11 of 2023

ORDINANCE 11 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE TWO-WAY INTERSECTION OF NORTHPORT BOULEVARD AND ROY ROAD LOCATED IN CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, TO AN “ALL-WAY STOP” INTERSECTION, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard (“Town”) on behalf of all residents and citizens who frequent the street of Northport Boulevard in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, particularly the two-way stop intersection of Northport Boulevard and Roy Road, the Town hereby makes public its concern for the safety of all residents and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the two-way intersection located at Northport Boulevard and Roy Road is a dangerous intersection; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the Town has been approached by concerned residents and citizens advocating for an “All-Way Stop” intersection at Northport Boulevard and Roy Road; and

WHEREAS, for all of the reasons stated herein, the Town requests the Caddo Parish Commission to change the two-way stop intersection at Northport Boulevard and Roy Road to an “All-Way Stop” intersection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderpersons of the Town of Blanchard, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Town of Blanchard hereby changes the two-way stop intersection at Northport Boulevard and Roy Road to an “All-Way Stop” intersection for the safety of all residents and citizens.

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 hereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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.

Said Ordinance having been read and introduced on the 11th day of July, 2023, by 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 following was had:

YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley, Whittington

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

And Ordinance 11 of 2023 was adopted this 8th day of August, 2023.

Resolution 8 of 2023 – A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Legal Services Agreement with Baron & Budd, P. C., Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor, LLC, Washington & Wells Law Firm and Blanchard, Walker, O’Quin & Roberts Law Firm

RESOLUTION 8 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BARON & BUDD, P.C., COSSICH, SUMICH, PARSIOLA & TAYLOR, L.L.C., WASHINGTON & WELLS LAW FIRM, AND BLANCHARD, WALKER, O’QUIN & ROBERTS LAW FIRM AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard and Town of Blanchard Water System ("Town") desires to engage outside counsel Baron & Budd, P.C., Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor, LLC, Washington & Wells Law Firm, and Blanchard, Walker, O’Quin & Roberts Law Firm ("Outside Counsel") to represent the Town, including but not limited to its boards, commissions, and agencies in this matter and seeks to enter into a Legal Services Agreement with the Outside Counsel in relation thereto; and

WHEREAS, The Town, including its boards, commissions, or agencies, has the right and/or obligation to pursue claims for damages, compensation and other relief (the "Causes of Action") against the manufacturer(s) and supplier(s) of firefighting foam products (known as "aqueous film forming foam" or "AFFF") and/or other products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") (including perfluorooctanoic acid ("PFOA"), perfluorooctane sulfonate ("PFOS"), and any other related compounds); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Lawrason Act, the Board of Aldermen of the Town, acting as the governing authority of the Town, desires that the Outside Counsel be retained as special counsel for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Blanchard, in due, regular and legal session convened that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to execute, for and on behalf of the Town of Blanchard, a Legal Services Agreement with Baron & Budd, P. C., Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor, LLC, Washington & Wells Law Firm, Blanchard, Walker, O’Quin & Roberts Law Firm and to provide legal representation, counsel, and advice to the Town of Blanchard, substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of the draft thereof attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

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 hereby declared to be severable.

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

Motion to accept Resolution 8 of 2023 made by Lee, seconded by Fuller. All voted yea.

Resolution 8 of 2023 was adopted this 8th day of August, 2023.

Petition for annexation presented by North Caddo Medical Center of Louisiana – A 0.14 acre tract of land in Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Whittington made motion to accept the petition for annexation of North Caddo Medical center of Louisiana, to annex a 0.14 acre tract of land in Section 25, T19N, R15W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Seconded by Presley. All voted yea.

Introduction of Ordinance 12 of 2023 – Annexation of a 6.53 acre tract, 2.762 acre tract and 3.96 acre tract, all in Section 32, Township 19 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. (Gregory Lee and Teresa Mitchell Juneau)

Mayor Galambos introduced Ordinance 12 of 2023 by title.

July 2023 financials

The July financials will be emailed as soon as all bank statement reconciliations are finalized.

Recommendation by Chief Allen to hire William Mikesell as a Part-Time Patrol Officer

Lee made motion to accept the recommendation of Chief Allen, to hire William Mikesell as a Part-Time Patrol Officer

REPORT FROM:

Perry Fuller, Utility Manager – 2 road bores, 3 on side, total of five meter sets. Everything is running smooth.

Gerald Allen, Chief of Police – waiting on new patrol car to be delivered; ordering new video and body cameras that will sync together

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR – Mayor Galambos welcomed District 1 Commissioner Todd Hopkins who was in attendance. Commissioner Hopkins advised today was the first day of qualifying for office for the October election. Please remember to vote.

Our sewer department is still working on getting the high levels of ammonia at the sewer plant down in accordance with DEQ. Still working on getting water sector funds for membranes at the water plant. We hope to get a part of the \$151,000,000.00; a meeting of legislators to be held Thursday in Baton Rouge to decide.

Whittington made motion to adjourn, seconded by Lee. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Jim Galambos, Mayor

Candy Foshee, Town Clerk