



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

October 9, 2007

Date of Notice: October 2, 2007

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: October 9, 2007
Time: 7:15 P.M.
Place: Council Meeting Room
3225 Third Street
Berwick, LA 70342

AGENDA:

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Edgar Thomas, Damon Robison, Duval Arthur, Penny Crappell, Troy Lombardo

Minutes from last meeting: September 11, 2007

Treasurer's Report

Guests:

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Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 7:15 Public Hearing Ordinance No. 571 – Surplus Property/Intergovernmental Agreement
2. Adopt Ordinance No. 571 – Surplus Property/Intergovernmental Agreement
3. Proclamation – Red Ribbon Week – Jackie Ackel
4. Joint Water Works District 2
5. Resolution – Introducing Ordinance No. 572 – Amend Zoning Ordinance for B1, B2, & B3
6. Introduce Ordinance No. 572 – Amend Zoning Ordinance for B1, B2, & B3
7. Proclamation – Domestic Violence
8. Introduce Ordinance No. 573 – Increase Sewer User Rate

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk

Town of Berwick

P.O. Box 486

Berwick, Louisiana 70342

(985) 384-8858

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Newell W. Slaughter at (985) 384-8858, describing the assistance that is necessary.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF BERWICK, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY**

October 9, 2007

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berwick, State of Louisiana, met in regular session at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall, Berwick, Louisiana, Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Council members, Edgar Thomas, Damon Robison, Duval Arthur, Penny Crappell and Troy Lombardo.

Absent: None

Also present were representatives of KQKI, The Daily Review, and Channel 39.

Councilman Troy Lombardo led the prayer.

Penny Crappell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berwick, State of Louisiana were duly convened as the governing authority of said Town, by the Honorable Louis Ratcliff, Mayor, who then stated that the Mayor and Council were ready for the transaction of business.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been reviewed, were approved without reading upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Edgar Thomas.

Mayor Ratcliff welcomed Steve Bierhorst, Albert Foulcard and Paul Naquin as guests. Mr. Bierhorst and Mr. Foulcard are running for St. Mary Parish council and each expressed his desire for the support of the Mayor and Town Council and the citizens of Berwick. Paul Naquin is St. Mary Parish President.

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of September 2007. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for September 2007 was quite a bit higher than September 2006. One of the reasons for the increase in tickets was the higher level of scrutiny of the River Road and Gilmore Drive areas. He summarized the accidents and citations that were issued in the month. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, Fire Department report.

Fire Chief Francis Fromenthal presented the fire report for August. There were 9 calls for the month: six vehicle accidents/fires, two mutual aid calls from Bayou Vista, one false alarm, and one motor vessel fire at Stardock. Chief Fromenthal reminded everyone that this was fire prevention week and the theme this year was "practice your escape plan". For more information concerning fire prevention week, go to NFPA.com. After no further comments, the mayor moved to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

A copy of the Public Works Report was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting. Town Superintendent Allen Benoit was available for comment. Mayor Ratcliff asked Mr. Benoit how the new Bobcat was working in trash pickup. Mr. Benoit stated that it was working out very well. All pumping stations and drainage ditches are in good working order. The sewer rehab project on Third and Fourth Streets will begin within the next two weeks. The new sewer truck has been ordered and should be arriving in the next few months. The new Berwick High Panther Head logo has been installed on the Boudreaux Street water tower. The Army Corp of Engineers inspected the levee system in Berwick and found everything in good repair. The two major dips in the levee south of Berwick near the Berwick boat landing have been repaired. The raising of the levees around Berwick is in the design phase and should be completed in the next five years. The driving of piles along the water front near the Lighthouse Park has been completed and town crews will install a new wharf as time permits. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

The first report was from Town Engineer, Glen Miller, represented by John Fore. He stated that plans and specifications are complete and should be sent to Planning and Zoning director Gary Beadle by Friday or Monday of next week. The Planning and Zoning Board will review the plans and make a recommendation to Mayor and Council for approval or disapproval. A public hearing was held October 3 recommending that the mayor call for a public hearing on November 13 to revise B-1, B-2 and B-3. Councilwoman Penny Crappell stated that the Anti-Litter committee did not have a report for September, but did say that the Centennial Committee was ready for the town picnic that will be held on October 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. There will be food, games, history and entertainment. She encouraged all citizens to attend. She thanked Mrs. Jackie Ackel for her work in preparing for the event. Next report was from the Economic Development Committee. Damon Robison stated that the committee did not meet and he did not have a report for September. Troy Lombardo reported that they held a Recreation Committee meeting and discussed the main three objectives, to hire a full time recreation director, upgrade Pharr Park and purchase the land behind the Civic Center. The committee recommended that the hiring of a full time recreation director be put on hold until Duval Arthur has consulted with LSU. The purchasing of the property is in the negotiation phase. They voted to hire a company to upgrade Pharr Park and received bids from two contractors, Gray Construction and Landscape Accents. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the council voted unanimously to expand the agenda to consider the bids for the upgrade to Pharr Park. West End Ditch Committee met and received the final report from Miller Engineers. Mr. Robison indicated that the West End Ditch was solely on the property owned by Berwick Land Company with a couple of locations that the ditch does encroach on property along the ditch. It was determined that the ditch was working properly and had been maintained at the proper depth. The problems with the erosion along the ditch appear to be caused by the altering of the ditch by residents by hard surfacing, pools and structures. This prevents the water from being absorbed into the soil and increases the amount and the speed of run off causing slight erosion to the eastern edge of the ditch. The amount of the erosion over a thirty year period is minimal. The committee recommends that the council continue with the current policy of if a homeowner wants to enclose the ditch that the homeowner would provide the approved pipe and the Town of Berwick would install and provide fill material to cover the pipe. This results in about 70% of the cost being borne by the town. Town Attorney, Allen McElroy, is researching the procedure to access the residents who wish to enclose their portion of the ditch by possibly adding the expense of enclosing the ditch to their property tax bill. Approximately half of the ditch has been enclosed by the property owners. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item # 1 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 571 – Declare surplus property and enter intergovernmental agreement. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 571.

Item # 2 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 571. Declare surplus property and enter intergovernmental agreement. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, Ordinance No. 571 was adopted unanimously.

Item # 3 on the agenda – Proclamation – Red Ribbon Week. Mayor Ratcliff declared the week of October 19 – October 28, 2007 as Red Ribbon Week and Drug-Free America Week.

Item # 4 on the agenda – Joint Water Works District 2. Board member Jack Boudreaux, Engineer Melanie Boudreaux and Water Plant superintendent Harold Adams addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the TOC (total organic carbons) issue at the Berwick-Bayou Vista Water Plant. The plant fell below the federal compliance level for TOC. The problem has been addressed and corrected and steps have been taken to insure that the problem does not reoccur in the future.

Item # 5 on the agenda – Resolution – Introducing Ordinance No. 572 – Amend Zoning Ordinance for B-1, B-2 & B-3. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item # 6 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 572 – Amend Zoning Ordinance for B-1, B-2 & B-3. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – Proclamation – Domestic Violence. Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed the month of October 2007 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urged all citizens to participate in programs sponsored by Chez Hope, and to work toward the elimination of domestic violence in the Town of Berwick.

Item # 8 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 573 – Sewer User Rate increase. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item # 9 on the agenda – Expand agenda to accept bids on renovations to Pharr Park. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the motion to expand the agenda was approved unanimously.

Item # 10 on the agenda – Accept bids for renovations to Pharr Park. The council received two bids for the renovations, one from Gray Construction of Bayou Vista in the amount of \$29,500 and one from Landscape Accents in the amount of \$24,527 of Thibodaux. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the council voted unanimously to accept the bid from Landscape Accents.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Damon Robison, the meeting adjourned.

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk