



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

October 8, 2013

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Duval Arthur, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, Greg Roussel, Edgar Thomas

Minutes from last meeting: September 10, 2013

Treasurer's Report

The Beacon Shines on...

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire**
- 2. Proclamation No. 01-14 - Proclaim October 17-28 as Red Ribbon Week**
- 3. Resolution No. 01-14 – Declare January 26 as Sergeant F. “Rick” Rigenbach Day in the Town of Berwick**
- 4. Appoint member to Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District**
- 5. Wax Lake East Drainage District – Tax Renewal – Bill Hidalgo**
- 6. Resolution No. 02-14 - Donation of fire truck from Bayou Vista Volunteer Fire Department**

Adjournment

Newell Slaughter, Town Clerk

Town of Berwick

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

October 8, 2013

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 8, 2013, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

Also present was a representative of KWBJ.

Councilman Damon Robison led the prayer.

Councilman Greg Roussel 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 were approved without reading upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo.

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

Guests: State Representative Sam Jones updated the mayor and council of the state capital outlay for 2013. Representative Jones was able to get the project before the Bond Commission which should result in approval for engineering for the entire project and construction of a portion of the project. Mr. Jones also stated that he was successful in adding a service road from Southeast Boulevard in Bayou Vista to Thorguson Road in Berwick to the I49 project. Also, he is trying to get the Highway 182 Bridge over the Atchafalaya River added as a historical structure to ensure that the bridge remains in service. Parish Councilman Logan Fromenthal was also in attendance and stated that there would be a pre-construction meeting in Franklin on October 11 for the Oregon Street Wharf project. Berry Brothers will be the contractor for the project.

Misty Pillaro, who managed the Tour du Teche Festival for the Town, and stated that there were 53 booths this year. There were 16 food booths, 31 craft booths and 6 game booths. The Little Zoo on Wheels was also there.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of September, 2013. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for September, 2013, were about the same amount written in September 2012. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for September, 2013, were also about the same amount written in September, 2012. Chief Richard stated that there were no issues with the Tour du Teche Festival. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the fire report.

Fire Chief Allen Rink gave the fire report for September stating that the department responded to 4 medical calls, 4 false alarms and 4 motor vehicle crashes. Chief Rink stated that the annual Shrimp Gumbo fund raiser was a success. The results were not final on the Tour du Teche jambalaya fund raiser. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

Public Works Director Rafael Lopez presented the Public Works report. Town crews finished the test project on the Hogan Street drainage ditch. The project will be monitored to see if it is feasible to complete the entire ditch. Town crews were complimented on their help with the recent Tour du Teche Festival. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer Reid Miller stated that a preconstruction meeting was planned for October 11 in Franklin for the Oregon Street Wharf project. Councilman Lombardo stated that one of the recreation board members had resigned and they are looking for a replacement. He also stated that the committee is close to implementing their “library box” project which would entail the placing of weather proof boxes at various locations in town that would allow resident to share books with other residents. They have tentatively planned to place a box on the walking trail near the junior high school and another box near town hall. The committee has also discussed allowing portions of the trail to be adopted by citizens/companies. The adoptee would be allowed to beautify the location. Jacki Ackel stated that the St. Mary Anti-Litter Committee inspection of the town left members of the committee impressed with the cleanliness of the town. After visiting all of the cities/towns in the parish, Berwick graded out the best. After no further committee reports, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on agenda – Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire – Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Damon Robison, the questionnaire was approved unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 01-14 – Proclaim October 18-27 as “Red Ribbon Week. Jacki Ackel spoke on behalf of the proclamation for the Red Ribbon Committee.

Item #3 on the agenda – Resolution No. 01-14 – Declare January 26 as Sergeant F. “Rick” Rigenbach day in the Town of Berwick. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Appoint member to Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, Joseph E. Cain was appointed unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Wax Lake East Drainage District Tax renewal. No representative was present for the district, but Mayor Ratcliff urged residents of Berwick to support the tax renewal. Motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison a resolution was offered in support tax renewal and was passed unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Resolution No. 02-14 – Donation of fire truck from Bayou Vista Volunteer Fire Department. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Mayor Ratcliff asked the council to expand the agenda to take on Resolutions 03-14 and 04-14. These resolutions are needed as part of a package being submitted for a Louisiana Community Block Grant that will be used to re-surface streets in the older part of town. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur, the council voted unanimously to expand the agenda. Damon Robison made a motion that was seconded by Edgar Thomas to approve Resolution No. 03-14. The resolution was approved unanimously. Damon Robison then made a motion to approve Resolution No. 04-14 that was seconded by Troy Lombardo. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Councilman Robison asked Mayor Ratcliff about two “junk” structures that are parked on Boudreaux Street. He stated that he had received some complaints from residents of Golden Farms Subdivision. Mayor asked Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle to look into the matter.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the meeting adjourned.

Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk