



## Town of Berwick

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**DATE OF NOTICE:** December 6, 2005

A public hearing will be held as follows:

**DATE:** December 13, 2005

**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Town Hall Council Room  
3225 Third St.  
Berwick, LA 70342

**AGENDA:**

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Minutes from last meeting: November 8, 2005

Treasurer's Report:

Police Report:

Fire Report:

Public Works Report:

Committee Reports:

Consulting Engineers Report:

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. 7:15 - Public Hearing - Ordinance #552 – provide provisions for billings and non-payment of water, gas and sewer services
2. Adopt Ordinance # 552.
3. Seitel Data, Ltd
4. Approve Liquor Licenses:
  - a. St. Mary Golf & Country Club
  - b. Ganaways's #4
  - c. My Place
  - d. To's Food Mart, Inc.
  - e. Woodie's Lighthouse Lounge
  - f. Country Club Express, Inc.-Barbara Kimble
  - g. Berwick Civic Center
  - h. Wiggins Seafood
  - i. Hollywood Truck Plaza
  - j. The Corner Store in Berwick, LLC
  - k. Jubilee Food Store #4614
  - l. Charlene's Roadhouse
  - m. Hollywood Truck Plaza Casino
5. Levee Study
6. Introduce Ordinance # 553 – Renwick Boulevard Extension
7. Resolution – Renwick Boulevard Extension
8. Form of Commitment Letter – Renwick Boulevard Extension

**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**

**December 13, 2005**

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, December 13, 2005 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Mayor Emmett Hardaway, and Council members, Edgar Thomas, Elaine Cantrell, Louis Ratcliff, and Ray Rasberry.

Absent: Bill Johnson

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

Mayor Hardaway led the prayer.

Edgar Thomas 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 Honorable Emmett Hardaway, 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, was approved without reading upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded by Elaine Cantrell.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Ray Rasberry and seconded by Elaine Cantrell.

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of November, 2005. Chief Richard noted that there had been a decrease in arrests and citations for the same period in 2004, but an increase in fines.

Chief Ray Rasberry presented the fire report for the month of November, 2005. There were three fire calls for the month.

The Public Works report was the next item on the agenda. A copy of this report was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting. Allen Benoit, Town Superintendent, noted that a car accident damaged a fire hydrant the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Utah Street. The leak has been repaired. Mr. Benoit also noted that Christmas decorations have been installed along the major streets in town.

Clay Braud presented the consulting engineers report. Mr. Braud stated that the legislature is now in session and that the Town of Berwick has been awarded \$90,000 in capital outlay funds for a 12" water line Fairview Drive, and that the town is awaiting a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that will need to be processed by the State prior to moving forward on the project. The new pumping station on the Berwick Borrow canal is complete. The natural gas supply has been completed and the pumps have been tested and are online. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for December 20, 2005. He has submitted the enhancement projects, lights on the pathway and the downtown development plan, to the state for funding. Renwick Boulevard extension bids were received on December 9, 2005 and the contract will be awarded at a later date. An application for funding was made to the Atchafalaya Basin Program for the Riverfront area. Clay Braud submitted three resolutions for State Capital Outlay funding. They were: Pattie Drive Ditch enclosure - \$160,800, Front Street Paving from Canton Street to Pacific Street - \$108,000, Extension of Renwick Boulevard to Highway 182 - \$870,000. Mr. Braud stated that the chance of receiving state funding for the above referenced projects was slim.

Mayor then moved to Item # 1 on the agenda – Public hearing on proposed ordinance #552. Council members Ratcliff, Thomas, Cantrell and Rasberry voiced opposition to the proposed ordinance. After much discussion from the council and audience, the ordinance was tabled until the portion of the ordinance relating to the landlord being responsible for the late utility bills is deleted. The ordinance will be reintroduced in January.

Item # 2 on the agenda – adopt Ordinance #552 – Upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was tabled.

Item # 3 on the agenda – Sietel Data, Ltd. – representatives from Sietel was not present. Mayor Hardaway stated that the company was seeking permission to conduct a mineral survey on their property.

Item # 4 on the agenda – approve liquor licenses for St. Mary Golf and Country Club, Ganaways #4, My Place, To's Food Mart, Woodie's Lighthouse Lounge, Country Club Express, Berwick Civic Center, Wiggins Seafood, Hollywood Truck Plaza, The Corner Store in Berwick, Jubilee Food Store #4614, Charlene's Roadhouse, and Hollywood Truck Plaza Casino. After consulting with Chief Richard, and a motion from Ray Rasberry, and a second from Louis Ratcliff, all licenses were approved for 2006.

Item #5 on the agenda – Levee Study Mayor Hardaway asked the council for permission to conduct other parish and city leaders concerning the condition of the levees in St. Mary Parish. He would like for a study to be conducted to determine if there were any problem areas within the Town of Berwick or any other area in the parish. Mayor Hardaway stressed that these problems need to be determined before the start of the hurricane season in 2006. St. Mary Parish Council Member Peter Soprano, who attended the meeting, stated that the parish had entered into a contract for a study of the levees in the north end of the parish and that possibly the Town of Berwick could participate with them.

Item #6 on the agenda – introduce Ordinance #553 – Renwick Boulevard Extension. Town Engineer, Clay Braud, stated that the bids received on December 9, 2005, and the low bid was received from Gray Construction Company. Town bonding attorney, Jerry Osborne, stated that the proposed amount of \$1,250,000 should be enough to complete the project and that the funds should be available in time to compensate the contractor for the first request for payment. Mr. Osborne stated that he will present the proposal to the State Bond Commission. He feels that the town should receive a good interest rate on the bonds. There was some concern by Mayor Hardaway that if the bond commission rejected our bond proposal as to what would happen if we awarded the contract before the bond commission approval. It was decided that the town engineer would ask Gray Construction to delay its award until after Bond Commission approval. Upon motion by Elaine Cantrell and seconded by Ray Rasberry, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – resolution for extension of Renwick Boulevard. Upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda – The letter of commitment was approved as part of the resolution and was not taken up as a separate item.

A resolution granting the contract for the extension of Renwick Boulevard in the amount of \$1,025,593.29 to Gray Construction to be effective on January 20, 2005 conditioned up Gray Construction holding their bid good until that date and upon condition of bond commission approval. Upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Council member Elaine Cantrell stated the Berwick Garden Club has plans to place a plaque at the oak tree on Utah Street near the seawall honoring Mr. Nina Guzzetta and the efforts that he put forth to save the oak tree from destruction during the sea wall construction.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Ray Rasberry and seconded by Louis Ratcliff, the meeting adjourned.

---

Emmett Hardaway - Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk