



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 12, 2008

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: January 8, 2008

Treasurer's Report

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Introduce Ordinance No. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c)**
- 2. Introduce Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage pickup fee**
- 3. Introduce Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Section 1-8 General Penalty; continuing violations**
- 4. Introduce Ordinance No. 577 – Lease parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC**
- 5. Renwick Phase III - Report from Finance Committee**
- 6. Training Session – Safe drinking water regulations**
- 7. Resolution 3-08 – Atchafalaya River Coalition**

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**

February 12, 2008

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, February 12, 2008 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 The Daily Review.

Councilman Edgar Thomas led the prayer.

Troy Lombardo 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 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 Penny Crappell.

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of January 2008. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for January 2008 were quite a bit higher than January 2007. Chief Richard also compared citations and arrests for 2008 to 2007 and noted that there was a significant increase in traffic citations in 2008. Mayor Ratcliff commended Chief Richard for his departments handling of the Krewe of Dionysus' Mardi Gras Parade. 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 January. There were six fire calls during the month. Mayor Ratcliff commended Chief Fromenthal for the Fire Department's help in aiding Shell Oil Pipeline contain the oil spill on River Road and Rose Street. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

A copy of the Public Works Report was included in the packet for each Councilman. Town Superintendent Allen Benoit was available for comment. Mr. Benoit stated that work on the refurbishment of the wharf near the Lighthouse Park is progressing nicely and should serve the town for many years to come. Mayor Ratcliff and Councilman Duval Arthur commended Mr. Benoit and the public works department's employees for their help in containing the Shell Oil Pipeline oil spill on River Road and Rose Street. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer, Miller Engineers & Associates, represented by John Fore, stated that he did not have a report for the month. Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning Board did not meet in January. The Berwick Development Board did meet and elected officers. Alvin Willis is the new chairman, replacing Dave Thomas, and Marilyn Vick is the new secretary. Mr. Beadle attended a meeting in Franklin concerning possible funding for six projects in the Town of Berwick. Mr. Beadle stated that the projects met the criteria for funding and were being reviewed by the Shaw Group. A decision should be made within the next month. The board also recommended that the Council approve Phase III of Renwick Subdivision. Mr. Beadle also stated that Lisa Foreman should have a preliminary draft of the new planning and zoning ordinances to the board for review by next week. Councilman Damon Robison attended the Mayor's Committee on Disability meeting at BIMS in January. The Committee is planning a job fair that is tentatively scheduled for April 13, 2008, at the Bayou Vista

Community Center. The Committee is attempting to expand their membership by inviting individuals and companies that serve the disabled to become members. Councilman Robison also presented the Finance Committee report and recommended the Town approve Phase III of Renwick Subdivision. Town Engineer, Miller Engineers and Associates will notify the contractor, Sampey General Contractors, of the approval. Duval Arthur presented the Recreation Committee report. He reported that the ball fields at Pharr Park were in terrible shape, but he was assured by the contractor that performed the rehab work at the fields that the fields would be ready for play when the season began. The next scheduled meeting for the Recreation Committee was scheduled for February 18, 2008. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item # 1 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c). Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Damon Robison, the introduction of the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage service fee. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the introduction of the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Section 1-8 General Penalty; continuing violations. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the introduction of the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 577 – Lease parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the introduction of the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Renwick Phase III – Report from the Finance Committee. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded Duval Arthur, the council approved the construction of Phase III of Renwick Subdivision unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Safe Drinking Water Training Session. A free training session for public officials concerning their role as owners of the water system and what is expected from them as owners will be held at the Ward 4 Government Complex in Centerville. The program will be presented by the State Health Department. Federal Safe Drinking Water regulations will be explained. All council members are encouraged to attend.

Item #7 on the agenda – Resolution No. 3-08 – Atchafalaya River Coalition. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution supporting the Atchafalaya River Coalition’s efforts to keep “Crewboat Cut” free from dredge material was approved unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

TO BE HELD ON February 20, 2008

AGENDA:

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

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

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL HAS BEEN CALLED WITH THIS AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Consider and take action on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lowe's Home Centers Inc., and other parties, for proposed Lowes Home Center in Berwick**
- 2. Consider and take action on any other matter that may properly be taken up at the meeting.**

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk

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

February 20, 2008

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berwick, State of Louisiana, met in special session at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall, Berwick, Louisiana, Wednesday, February 20, 2008 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 The Daily Review, KQKI, and KWBJ.

Mayor Ratcliff led the prayer.

Councilwoman 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.

Mayor Ratcliff moved to the first item on the agenda, consider and take action on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., and other parties, for proposed Lowes Home Center in Berwick. After reading a brief statement, stating some background information relating to the Lowe's project, Mayor Ratcliff moved for Jerry Osborne, with Foley & Judell, to explain the proposed MOU to the mayor, council and attending citizens. Mr. Osborne read the MOU and explained the seven part document. The MOU sets out what incentives that the Town of Berwick will provide Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. and what Lowes will do for the Town of Berwick. It basically provides that the Town of Berwick, St. Mary Parish and the Industrial Development Board of St. Mary Parish will provides sales tax and property tax exemptions to Lowe's of \$3,000,000 over a ten year period and Lowes will in turn build a retail store of approximately 100,000 square feet that will create a minimum of Eighty (80) full-time equivalent employees at the new facility within Twelve (12) months from the first anniversary date of the store opening date. Lowe's intends to complete construction of the project within 36 months after execution of the purchase and sale agreement for the site. A copy of the MOU will be published with the meeting minutes.

Jennings Gray, consultant for Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., addressed the Mayor and Council and expressed Lowe's desire to locate in Berwick and stated that Lowe's would build a 117,000 square foot facility with a 32,000 square foot garden center. The store would employ approximately 80 people and have an annual payroll of 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Annual sales would be 18 to 20 million dollars. Due to the extraordinary development cost for the site, Lowe's was asking for assistance from the Town of Berwick and St. Mary Parish. Councilman Robison asked Mr. Gray how soon the store would open and Mr. Gray stated that as soon as possible. Mr. Gray stated that the Berwick project would go back before the Real Estate Committee for second consideration, hopefully in March, but no later than April. Councilman Lombardo asked Mr. Gray if the town could expect other businesses to locate around the Lowe's store. Mr. Gray stated that there are several out lots available on the Lowe's property that will be available for sale and typically other stores follow Lowe's.

Paul Naquin, Frank Fink and Logan Fromenthal, Lou Tamporello, St. Mary Parish officials, voiced their approval of the Lowe's Home Center project. Mr. Fink, St. Mary Parish Economic Development Director, stated that the Industrial Development Board of St. Mary Parish met today and approved the MOU. He presented five signed copies to Mayor Ratcliff.

Reverend Lee Lamury asked if any parish or city sales tax would be given to the project. Jerry Osborne stated that no sales tax from St. Mary Parish or the Town of Berwick would be given as incentives to the Lowe's project. He did say the State of Louisiana did have a program that rebated sales taxes on materials that would be used to construct the new facility.

Berwick resident Carroll Thorguson asked Frank Fink if the property would ever be owned by Lowe's Home Centers. Mr. Fink stated that at the end of the ten year period or when the bond issue is satisfied, the property would owned by Lowes. During the ten year period the property would be owned by the Industrial Development Board.

Councilman Penny Crappell offered a resolution authorizing Mayor Ratcliff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Industrial Development Board of St. Mary Parish and Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. in form and content approved by the town attorney and bond counsel for the Town of Berwick. Damon Robison seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk