



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 10, 2009

Date of Notice: February 3, 2009

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: February 10, 2009
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: January 13, 2009
Treasurer's Report
Guests:
Police Report
Fire Report
Public Works Report
Consulting Engineers Report
Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 594 – Expropriation of cemetery property
2. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 599 – Sale of Utah Street property
3. Adopt Ordinance No. 594 – Expropriation of cemetery property. There will be request for executive session to discuss the prospective litigation of the expropriation. The parties to be involved in the litigation are listed in the ordinance. This will be an executive session to discuss legal strategy that would have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town of Berwick if discussed in an open meeting.
4. Adopt Ordinance No. 599 – Sale of Utah Street property
5. Cypress Sawmill Festival Queen – Lacey Angeron
6. Resolution No. 06-09 – Name Newell Slaughter as contact for State Project No. 50-M24-08B-01
7. Frank Fink – Present St. Mary Parish Resolution concerning construction of apartment buildings
8. Preliminary approval and Engineering Approval of Phase I of Riverbend Estates Subdivision

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk
Town of Berwick
P.O. Box 486
Berwick, Louisiana 70342
(985) 384-8858

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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**

February 10, 2009

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 10, 2009 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 Pro-Tem Duval Arthur led the prayer.

Councilman Damon Robison 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 Damon Robison.

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, 2009. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for January 2009 were less than 2008 because the department was involved in the hunt for the 3 escapees from the Allen Parish Detention Center. Mayor Ratcliff thanked Chief Richard and his staff for their efforts in apprehending the escapees. 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 was not present, but did report that there were zero fire calls in January, 2009. 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 he is currently replacing a pump at the Berwick South Road pumping station near the St. Mary Parish Land Fill. Mayor Ratcliff asked Mr. Benoit about the two holes in the levee near Berry Brothers. Mr. Benoit stated that the Corp of Engineers inspected the levee and determined that the holes were not the result of erosion. The actual cause of the holes was undetermined. Town crews repaired the area. The lighthouse is currently undergoing some internal and external repairs and will be repainted within the next two to three weeks. Some street paving has been completed. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning Board met and gave Preliminary and Engineering approval for Phase I of River Bend Estates Subdivision. The Board also approved paying off the indebtedness for Phase I of Renwick Subdivision. The Board also approved paying the Town of Berwick \$50,000 toward the debt owed for the land of Phases I, II, and III of Renwick Subdivision. The Recreation Committee did have a meeting and Rhonda Burtner submitted a report presented by Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur. Swing sets have been installed at Willie Steward Park and Pharr Park. Bids were received for the padded surface and the playground at the Civic Center, but they were \$25,000 over the budgeted amount. The committee is researching alternatives to cover the sand in the play area. The merry-go-round and Aztec playground equipment will be ordered in the near future. Closing ceremonies for the youth basketball season will be held on March 5 at the Civic Center. Girl's

softball registration will begin this week and the season will begin at the end of March. Co-ed volleyball season will begin on March 9. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held on March 19. Councilwoman Penny Crappell stated that the St. Mary Beautification Committee has been named Keep St. Mary Beautiful. The logo will be “Can It”, Keep St. Mary Clean. The Committee applied for a \$15,000 grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful and should know within the month of February if they will receive the grant. Their mission statement is: Keep St. Mary Beautiful, to encourage businesses, organizations and citizens to promote a cleaner community by offering education, resources and support. 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. 594 - Expropriation of Cemetery Property on St. Clair Alley. Mary Virden from Patterson stated that the part of the property to be expropriated was her grandfather’s property and asked the mayor and council to not expropriate the property. After no further comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 599– Sale of Utah Street Property. Jack Granger asked if the property being sold on Utah Street was his property. Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle assured him that it was not his property. After no comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 594 – Expropriation of cemetery property. There will be request for executive session to discuss the prospective litigation of the expropriation. The parties to be involved in the litigation are listed in the ordinance. There will be an executive session to discuss legal strategy that would have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town of Berwick if discussed in an open meeting. Councilman Penny Crappell made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Damon Robison. After a unanimous roll call vote, the mayor and council went into executive session. After returning from the executive session, upon motion Damon Robison and seconded by Penny Crappell, the council voted to table the ordinance until the March meeting to gather more information concerning the matter.

Item #4 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 599. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Presentation by Cypress Sawmill Queen Lacey Angeron. Miss Angeron addressed the mayor and council and invited them to attend the Queen’s Luncheon on March 21, 2009 at the Patterson Civic Center. Teen Queen Skyla Burt also attended. David Bourdier thanked the Berwick Police Department for their help during the past festivals and looked forward to working with them again at this year’s festival. Mr. Bourdier also stated that a lumberjack show has been added as an attraction to this year’s festival.

Item #6 on the agenda –Resolution No. 06-09 – Name Newell Slaughter as contact for State Project No. 50-M24-08B-01. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – Presentation by Frank Fink concerning the construction of apartment buildings. Mr. Fink stated that the St. Mary Parish Council passed an ordinance in December, 2008 that would give developers a seven year tax abatement if they financed their project through the St. Mary Industrial Development Board using industrial revenue bonds. The ordinance also provided an exemption on the permit fees. Inspection fees would have to be paid by the developer. Mr. Fink asked that the Mayor and Council pass a resolution in support of the parish ordinance. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Penny Crappell, the council voted unanimously to approve a resolution supporting the St. Mary Parish ordinance. Mr. Fink stated that he would get a copy of the resolution forwarded to the town.

Item #8 on the agenda – Preliminary and Engineering approval for Phase I of Riverbend Estates Subdivision. Planning and Zoning director Gary Beadle stated that the Board met and gave preliminary approval and engineering approval to Phase I of the Riverbend Estates Subdivision and recommended that

the council approve the planned subdivision. He stated that town superintendent, Allen Benoit, had approved the plans. Councilman Edgar Thomas asked if the proposed canal for the subdivision would be bulkheaded. The engineer for the project, Glen Miller, addressed the question. He stated that the Willowcrest side of the canal would be bulk headed. Individual property owners would be responsible for bulkheading their property. They would have to follow guidelines set forth in the restrictions and covenants of the subdivision. Councilman Robison asked about water depth of the proposed canal. Mr. Miller stated that the canal would have a low water depth of six feet. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, approval was granted unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk