



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

March 11, 2014

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: February 11, 2014

Treasurer's Report

The Beacon Shines on...

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Center of Hope - \$14,740 donation for building new facility**
- 2. Declare August 16-17, 2014 as Lighthouse Weekend**
- 3. Hannah Roy – Berwick High School – Possible red-light at Tournament Boulevard and Highway 182**
- 4. Lou Cutrera – St. Mary Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- 5. David Boudier – Cypress Sawmill Festival**
- 6. Woodrow Parker – Aqua Safety First Community Program**
- 7. Liner Family 5K & Fun Run(To honor Tommy Bourgeois)**
- 8. Minor Subdivision Approval – Tommy Vaughn**

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**

March 11, 2014

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, March 11, 2014, 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 and The Daily Review.

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 Damon Robison.

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

The Beacon shined on Annette Thomas Bowman for the month of March, 2014. Councilman Edgar Thomas presented Mrs. Bowman, who will be celebrating her 103rd birthday this coming September. Mrs. Bowman, who is Councilman Thomas' cousin, has lived in Berwick her entire life. Some of the events occurring during her life are the two bridges that were built in Berwick, the railroad bridge, the Great Depression, the stock market crash and the Great Flood of 1927.

Guests: School Board member Mike Taylor was present, but did not speak.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of February, 2014. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for February, 2014, were about the same amount written in February, 2013. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for February, 2014, were also about the same amount made in February, 2013. Chief Richard also stated that his department had zero arrests for the March 1st Mardi Gras Parade. 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 January, 2014 stating that the department responded to 17 calls for the month. There were 7 medical assists calls, 2 false alarms, 7 motor vehicle crashes, 2 of which had major injuries, and 1 minor stove fire. 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. The installation of a drainage pipe on Highway 90 near the Sleep Inn motel is 100% complete. Town crews have completed the new wharf on the river near the railroad tracks. Work is continuing on adding fill material and landscaping the area around the wharf. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Councilman Lombardo stated that the installation of the new recreation equipment at the Civic Center is 100% complete. Jacki Ackel presented the Anti-Litter report and stated the parish committee was surveying all areas of the parish to determine the areas that needed help in containing litter. Planning & Zoning director Gary Beadle stated that Tommy Vaughn had applied for a minor subdivision approval for his lot in Willowcrest. (See item 8 on agenda for more information) The Economic Development committee did not have a report. Town Engineer Reid Miller stated that the wharf project at the Oregon Street Boat Launch was 100% complete. Town

crews are adding fill material and landscaping the area around the wharf. After no further committee reports, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Center of Hope - \$14,470 contribution for building new facility. The five municipalities in St. Mary Parish will fund \$100,000 of the project based on 2010 census figures. The Town of Berwick's share will be spread over a five year period (\$2,948 annually). Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the contribution was approved unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Declare August 16-17, 2014, as Lighthouse Weekend. Mrs. Jackie Price with the Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service addressed the mayor and council and asked them to declare August 16-17, 2014, as Lighthouse Weekend in the Town of Berwick. The club is participating in International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Founded in Scotland in 1995, the event annually sees participation from about 50 countries. The basic objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Greg Roussel, the motion was approved unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Hannah Roy – Possible red-light at Tournament Boulevard and Highway 182. Ms. Roy addressed the mayor and council and asked them to support replacing the caution light and Tournament Boulevard and Highway 182 with a red light. Ms. Roy has already sent a letter to the Department of Transportation and Development asking them to consider replacing the light. Town Attorney Allen McElroy suggested that the town should pass a resolution asking the DOTD to conduct a study to determine if a red light is needed at the intersection. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution proposal was passed unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Lou Cutrera – St. Mary Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Cutrera addressed the mayor and council updating them on the process of determining areas within the parish and cities/towns in St. Mary Parish that may be hazardous if a major storm or other event would strike the parish or city/town. Each area of the parish would prepare a list prioritized by the most hazardous.

Item #5 on the agenda – David Boudier – Cypress Sawmill Festival. Teen Queen Sarah Angeron invited everyone to attend the Cypress Sawmill Festival that will be held on the first weekend in April.

Item #6 on the agenda – Woodrow Parker – Aqua Safety First Community Program. Woodrow Parker and Dustin Porter addressed the mayor and council asking for support for their program that would aid under privileged children in St. Mary Parish to learn how to swim and other life lessons. Mayor Ratcliff asked that Mr. Parker set a meeting with him to discuss the town's participation in his program.

Item #7 on the agenda – Liner Family 5K and Fun Run to honor Tommy Bourgeois. Mark Villa, Miles Liner's uncle, addressed the mayor and council and outlined the family's plan for the 5K run and the Fun Run honoring Tommy Bourgeois that will be held on April 5, 2014. The Fun Run will begin at 8:00 AM and the 5K will begin at 8:30 AM. Mr. Villa stated that they have many activities planned for the day, many geared for young children. Mayor Ratcliff stated that he had participated in the run last year and was looking forward to participating this year. Upon motion by Greg Roussel and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the parade permit was approved unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda – Minor Subdivision approval. Berwick resident Tommy Vaughn applied to create a lot extension on his existing lot that fronts Brighton Lane. The Planning and Zoning Board met on March 5, 2014, and approved the lot extension and is recommending that the mayor and council approve the application in a one-step approval as allowed in Section 17.25-5 (A). Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the extension was approved unanimously.

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