



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

March 11, 2008

Date of Notice: April 1, 2008

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: March 11, 2008
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: February 12, 2008
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 Ordinance No. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c) General Penalty; continuing violations
2. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage Pickup Fee
3. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Sec.8 General Penalty; Continuing Violations
4. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing Ordinance No. 577 – Lease Parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC
5. Adopt Ordinance No. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c) General Penalty; continuing violations
6. Adopt Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage Pickup Fee
7. Adopt Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Sec.8 General Penalty; Continuing Violations
8. Adopt Ordinance No. 577 – Lease Parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC
9. Introduce Ordinance No. 578 – Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1, (f) on Public Wharves and Docks
10. Introduce Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17m Article III – Parades, Processions and Demonstrations
11. Preliminary Approval of Riverbend Estates Subdivision; Section 28, T-15-S, R-12-E; Fairview Drive, Dreamscape Developers, LLC, Developer; Miller Engineers & Associates, Inc., Engineer.
12. Proclamation – National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week (NIPAW)
13. Cypress Sawmill Queen – Erin Hymel
14. Keep St. Mary Beautiful Campaign

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**

March 11, 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, March 11, 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, KWBJ and KQKI.

Councilman Troy Lombardo led the prayer.

Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur 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 Edgar Thomas.

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of February, 2008. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for February, 2008 were a little higher than February, 2007. Chief Richard also compared citations and arrests for 2008 to 2007. Chief Richard stated that there were some vehicle burglaries on Hogan Street in Country Club Estates. No vehicles were broken into; the residents had left their vehicles unlocked. Chief Richard recommended that residents keep their vehicles locked at all times. Councilwoman Crappell commended Chief Richard's department on the fine job they did in responding to an accident near Berwick Elementary School. 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 February, 2008. There were nine fire calls during the month. There were 6 mutual aid calls to Bayou Vista and two false alarms. 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 100% complete on the wood structure. The only item remaining was installing a hand rail on the inside edge of the wharf, the handicap ramp and steps. Mr. Benoit stated that the process to install the new generator for Town Hall had begun. He stated that the actual installation of the new generator should not take more than five to seven days and the operations of the Town Hall and Police Station would not be interrupted. Air conditioning to some areas of the building would not be available. The installation of the new generator is scheduled to begin on the Monday after Easter. The new parking lot behind the Civic Center is 100% complete and is open for public use. He has contacted Cleco concerning replacing burned out lights on the youth baseball and softball fields. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer, Miller Engineers & Associates, represented by Glen Miller, stated that the contractor for Phase III of Renwick Subdivision had moved equipment onto the site and was waiting on materials to be delivered. Construction should begin shortly.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning Board met on March 5, 2008 and gave preliminary approval to River Bend Estates subdivision. The board also

discussed revisions to the Town of Berwick's subdivision regulations. Consultant Lessa Foreman will have a preliminary draft ready for review in a public hearing in the coming weeks. Councilman Damon Robison reported that the Economic Development Committee did not have a report. Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur presented the Recreation Committee report. He stated that the committee had met twice and made several recommendations. A lot of the recommendations were being addressed by the town crews and volunteers. A baseball camp will be held at the Bayou Vista community center. The LSU baseball team will be aiding in the camp. A co-ed adult volleyball league has been formed. Six teams will participate in the league. The committee wants to hire a full time recreation director. The committee prepared a job description for the position. The committee is recommending asking the public to approve a millage of 8 mills to help offset some of the expense of the new position. 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. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c). After no comments from the council or the audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 574.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage Pickup Fee. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 575.

Item #3 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Sec. 8 General Penalty; continuing violations. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 576.

Item #4 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 577 – Lease parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 577.

Item #5 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 574 – Amend Chapter 10, Section 10-8, subsection (c). Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 575 – Increase Garbage Pickup Fee. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Chapter 1, Section 8, General Penalty; Continuing Violations. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 577 – Lease parcel No. 17 to Premier Tugs, LLC. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 578 – Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1, (f) on Public Wharves and Docks. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17, Article III – Parades, Processions, and Demonstrations. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Penny Crappell, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #11 on the agenda – Preliminary approval of Riverbend Estates Subdivision; Section 28, T-15-S, R-12-E; Fairview Drive, Dreamscape Developers, LLC, Developer; Miller Engineers & Associates, Inc., Engineer. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the preliminary approval was unanimously approved.

Item #12 on the agenda – Proclamation – National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week (NIPAW). Mayor Ratcliff stated that he would sign the proclamation and forward a copy to The Bayou Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Item #13 on the agenda – Cypress Sawmill Queen Erin Hymel. Queen Hymel addressed the mayor and council and invited them to attend the Fourteenth Annual Queen's Luncheon on Saturday,

March 29, 2008. She also invited everyone in attendance and the citizens of Berwick to attend The Cypress Sawmill Festival that will held April 4 through April 6, 2008

Item #14 on the agenda – Keep St. Mary Beautiful – Dr. Alice Pecorara. Dr. Pecorara addressed the mayor and council to solicit support for the Keep St. Mary Beautiful Campaign. She stated that controlling liter is very important in attracting new citizens and new industry to the area. She stated that the annual budget for the office would be approximately \$60,000. Berwick’s share of the budget for 2008 would be approximately \$5,000. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, a motion to commit to a one year period was approved unanimously. The approval was contingent upon all of the municipalities in St. Mary Parish and the St. Mary Parish Council approving the measure as well.

Mayor Ratcliff informed the council that he had been in contact with Lowe’s Home Center consultant, Jennings Gray, and Mr. Gray informed him that Lowe’s would not be locating in Berwick. Mr. Gray stated that he would send a letter to Mayor Ratcliff explaining why the company had decided not to locate in Berwick.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk