



Town of Berwick

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

March 10, 2009

Date of Notice: March 3, 2009

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

**Date:** March 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: February 10, 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. Adopt Ordinance No. 594 – Expropriation of Cemetery Property
3. Donna Leblanc – Cemetery maintenance
4. Proclamation No. 3-09 – National Inhalants and Poison Awareness Week
5. Proclamation No. 4-09 – National Community Development Week
6. Resolution No. 7-09 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road from B-1(local business) to R-3(Multi-Family Housing)
7. Resolution No. 8-09 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road from B-1 to R-3
8. Resolution No. 9-09 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road from B-1 to R-3
9. Introduce Ordinance No. 600 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road from B-1 to R-3
10. Introduce Ordinance No. 601 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road from B-1 to R-3
11. Introduce Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road from B-1 to R-3
12. Appoint Committee to review Pre-Disaster Debris Removal Contract Proposals
13. Resolution of Respect for Mr. Bill Leftwich

### 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 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, March 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.

Councilwoman Penny Crappell 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 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 February, 2009. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for February 2009 were less than 2008 because the department was involved in the hunt for the 3 escapees from the Allen Parish Detention Center. Chief Richard informed the mayor and council that he has hired former Berwick police officer Darius Turner as a patrolman. Also, trustees have begun picking up litter along the town streets. 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, a copy of which was included in the councilmen's packet. There were 5 fire calls for the month, including several mutual calls to Morgan City, Bayou Vista and Amelia. Chief Fromenthal stated that all fire trucks were in working order and ready for calls. He also invited the public and the mayor and council to the open house at the Central Station that will be held on March 28, 2009. The department has several training sessions planned for the coming months. Chief Fromenthal invited the mayor and council to become members of the fire department. 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. Councilman Robison asked about the planned paving project on Belleview/Front Street. Mr. Benoit stated that the project is in the planning stage and work will begin in the coming weeks. 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 approval to the rezoning of three parcels of land on River Road, near the "S Curve". The items are on the agenda for council approval. The slab has been poured for the new Sleep Inn Motel on Highway 90. The 76 room motel is scheduled for completion around the Labor Day weekend. Councilwoman Penny Crappell stated that the St. Mary Beautification Committee has received a \$12,000 grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful Community Grant Program. The committee plans to use 50% of the grant for educational supplies, 30% for cleaning supplies and 20% for advertising and public relations. The final training class for certification to become an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful will be held on March 31

in Franklin. Councilwoman Crappell presented Mayor Ratcliff a certification report. Rhonda Burtner presented the recreation report. She stated that the basketball season ended on March 5 and 151 children participated in the league and 96 of the students received academic awards for maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA. Registration is beginning for the summer softball league and the adult co-ed volleyball season began on March 9. There are currently 6 teams participating with the hope of adding more teams in the future. Dixie Youth opening ceremonies will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, March 27 at Pharr Park. Approximately 250 children are registered ranging in ages from 5-12 years old. The playground equipment for the Civic Center has been ordered. The Merry-Go-Round and the Aztec Climber should be delivered and installed with the next three weeks. Surfacing for Pharr Park and the Civic Center is still in the process of being selected. Mrs. Burtner presented Berwick Elementary student T.J. LeBlanc with a certificate and a t-shirt for the winning design in the Berwick Recreation t-shirt contest. The design will be used for the upcoming year and a new design will be selected next year. The blighted property committee did not meet. 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. Town Attorney, Allen McElroy, stated that since Ordinance No. 594 was tabled at the February council meeting that a motion must be made to take the ordinance from the table. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, Ordinance No. 594 was taken off of the table. Several heirs to the property on St. Clair Alley spoke and asked that the council vote not to expropriate the property that belongs to the Mayes family. Those who spoke in opposition of the expropriation of 419 and 425 St. Clair Alley were Beverly Mayes Rideau, Treasure Sanford Singleton, Leroy Mayes, Darrell Mayes, Alma Sanford and Janet Smith. A resident of 421 St. Clair Alley, Mr. Henry Weston, Jr., stated that if the council voted to expropriate the property that he could not afford to move his trailer. After no further comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 594 – Expropriation of cemetery property. Town Attorney Allen McElroy gave a brief explanation of the expropriation process before the vote on the ordinance. He stated that the town will prepare a partition for expropriation that will be filed with the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court. It appears that most of the heirs will not be able to be served notice of the suit and an attorney will have to be appointed to represent them. The partition will state the need for this property for cemetery expansion. Depending on how the defendants answer the law suit, there will be a full trial or a trial to determine the value of the property. The court will make a determination as to whether the property is needed or not needed for public purposes and determine the fair market value. If the defendants can prove ownership of the property, the court may grant them an interest ownership of the property. The money will be deposited in register of the court until proof of ownership is established. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Donna Romero LeBlanc – Cemetery Maintenance. Donna Romero LeBlanc, a resident of Patterson, addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the maintenance and security at the Berwick Cemetery. Her concerns were children playing in the cemetery, loud noise & loud music from adjacent residents, car noise and litter. She stated that complaints to the police department were not resolved to her satisfaction.

Item #4 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 3-09 – National Inhalants and Poison Awareness Week. Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed March 15-21 as National Inhalants and Poison Awareness Week in the Town of Berwick.

Item #5 on the agenda –National Community Development Week. Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed April 12-18 as National Community Development Week in the Town of Berwick.

Item #6 on the agenda – Resolution No. 7-09 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded Damon Robison, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – Resolution No. 8-09 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Damon Robison, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda – Resolution No. 9-09 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 600 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Introduce ordinance No. 601 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #11 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road from B-1 to R-3. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #12 on the agenda – Appoint Committee to review Pre-Disaster Debris Removal Contract proposals. Mayor Ratcliff appointed Newell Slaughter, Allen Benoit, James Richard, Troy Lombardo and Edgar Thomas to the committee.

Item #13 on the agenda – Resolution of respect for Mr. Bill Leftwich. Mayor Ratcliff read a resolution of respect for Mr. Bill Leftwich who died at the age of 93. He was a long time resident of Berwick and a member of the Berwick Volunteer Fire Department.

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

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Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk