



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**March 9, 2010**

**AGENDA:**

**Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.**

**Prayer**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Minutes from last meeting: February 9, 2010**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Contract with Leesa Foreman for research and input on digging of lakes/pits in the town**
- 2. Appoint committee to gathering information and recommendations on digging of lakes/pits**
- 3. Approve liquor license for Woody's Lighthouse – Monique & Richard Falcon (pending state approval)**
- 4. Introduce Ordinance No. 611 – Article II. Unsafe, dangerous, dilapidated and abandoned structures**
- 5. Zoning Committee Report**
- 6. Housing Authority – Pilot (payment in lieu of taxes) presentation by Clarence Robinson**

**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 9, 2010**

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 9, 2010 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Council members, Duval Arthur, Penny Crappell, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, and Edgar Thomas.

Absent: None

Also present were representatives of The Daily Review, KQKI and KWBJ.

Councilman Troy Lombardo 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 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.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of February, 2010. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for February, 2010 were higher than February, 2009. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for February, 2010 were higher than February, 2009. Chief Richard stated that his department was ready for the Krewe of Dionysus parade and did not have any arrests. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Fire Department report.

Fire Chief Wayne LaCoste was not available to deliver his report due to his father death, but Mayor Ratcliff stated that there were four fire calls for February, with three extrications and on one outside brush fire. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

Town Superintendent Allen Benoit presented the Public Works report. Mr. Benoit stated that town crews have begun installation of the 12" water pipe for the new water intake line for the water plant and is approximately 90% completed. The project should be completed in March, depending on weather conditions. The rehabilitation of the wharf between Crappell's Seafood and the Old Basin Marine building has begun. The contractor drove pilings on the section between Crappell's Seafood and the Old Basin Marine building. The remaining pilings for the section between the two bridges will be driven after the river stage has decreased. The mayor stated that the river level will be above average, according to the Corp of Engineers. Phase I of the Town Hall roof repair has been completed. All of the air conditioners have been re-located to ground level and are now operational. Phase II will be scheduled for next budget year. Town crews have begun preparing mowing equipment for the upcoming summer months. After no 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 denied a permit for Tham Nguyen. See Agenda Item No. 4 below for more details. The Economic Development Committee did not meet. The Anti-litter Committee met and they have received another \$10,000 grant to add two recycling bins. This brings the total of grants received to \$35,000. Recreation advisory committee chairman Penny Crappell gave a report. Town Engineer, Glen Miller met with the committee to receive input on the proposed baseball/softball complex at the Civic Center. Mrs. Crappell

asked that if the mayor and council had ideas for the park they should pass them along to the committee. The construction of the observation deck and canopy for the playground at the Civic Center will begin in March and should be completed within the month, weather permitting. Quotes for the equipment for the outdoor fitness area are being received at this time. A summer camp program for the Civic Center is in the planning stages. Rhonda Burtner conceived the idea and will be managing the camp. Anyone with ideas to enhance the camp is asked to submit them to the committee. Basketball league will have closing ceremonies on March 16 at the Civic Center. A meal of pizza will be served to all present. The softball league held its first meeting and is planning for the upcoming season. Patterson has requested to be part of the league this year. Ciji Davis is the new president for the softball league. Registration will be held from March 22 to April 1. Co-ed adult volleyball registration will begin on March 22. Dixie Youth Baseball registration is being held at this time. The committee requested that construction of the batting cage for the Civic Center commence as soon as possible. Mrs. Crappell asked for help from the town superintendant to fill the sand area at the civic center with top soil. The "Relay for Life" fund raiser for cancer has been moved from Morgan City to Berwick and will be held at Berwick High School football stadium on May 1, 2010. The Blighted Property Committee met and Town Attorney Allen McElroy has prepared an ordinance that will be introduced by Agenda Item # 4. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Contract with Leesa Foreman for research and input on digging of lakes and ponds in the Town of Berwick. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the contract with Leesa Foreman was approved unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Appoint Committee to gather information and recommendations on digging of lakes and ponds in the Town of Berwick. Mayor Ratcliff appointed Edgar Thomas, Troy Lombardo, Allen Benoit and Newell Slaughter to the committee.

Item #3 on the agenda – Approve liquor license for Woody's Lighthouse – Monique and Richard Falcon. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Damon Robison, the liquor license was approved unanimously, pending state approval.

Item #4 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 611 – Article II. Unsafe, dangerous, dilapidated and abandoned structures. The Blighted Property Committee looked at the Morgan City and Patterson ordinances and developed a revision to our existing ordinance that the committee felt would enhance the town's ability to rid the community of blighted and dangerous properties. Upon Motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Edgar Thomas the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Zoning Committee Report – Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle stated that the Planning and Zoning Board met and denied a permit for Tham Nguyen to convert a retail store at 3422/3424 Fifth Street into two dwelling units in a B-2 zoning district. The committee voted to recommend to the Mayor and Council that, based on the review of the application, the comments received at the meeting and the recommendations of the staff, the application for planning approval to convert the retail store into two dwelling units be denied. The basis for denial is as follows: (1) The site proposed for residential usage was found to be inappropriate and inadequate to afford potential residents sufficient land area for outdoor storage, green area, and play area. (2) The proposed conversion was found to be incompatible with the surrounding commercial land usage and the zoning district in which the residential use would be located. As required under our new zoning ordinance, it will be necessary that the Council take final action on this application. Accordingly, it is recommended that the application for planning approval, as submitted by Mr. Nguyen be denied. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the application was denied unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Pilot (payment in lieu of taxes) presentation by Clarence Robison. Clarence Robison, Berwick Housing Authority, presented the Pilot check to Mayor Ratcliff.

Mayor Ratcliff made a brief statement concerning the death of J.C. LaCoste, father of Berwick Fire Chief, Wayne LaCoste. Mr. LaCoste served in the Berwick Fire Department for over 25 years and was a valuable member of our community. He will be missed by his family and friends.

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

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Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk