



Town of Berwick

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
April 12, 2005**

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Ed Thomas, Elaine Cantrell, Louis Ratcliff, Bill Johnson, Ray Rasberry

Minutes from last meeting: March 8, 2005

Treasurer's Report:

Police Report:

Fire Report:

Public Works Report:

Committee Reports:

Consulting Engineers Report:

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Appoint Robert Thigpen to Berwick Housing Authority Board**
- 2. Approve Liquor License for Hollywood Truck Stop/Joe Penn, Jr.**
- 3. Resolution – Opposition to the elimination of Federal Community Block Grant Program**
- 4. Anna Scott - Complaint concerning toy guns used by children**
- 5. Tim Cheramie – Complaint about abandoned vehicles on private property**
- 6. Proclamation – National Fair Housing Month**

Adjournment

Newell W. 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**

April 12, 2005

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, April 12, 2005 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Mayor Emmett Hardaway, and Council members, Elaine Cantrell, Bill Johnson, Ray Rasberry, Louis Ratcliff, and Edgar Thomas, Jr.

Absent: None

Also present were representatives of the Daily Review, KQKI and Channel 39.

Mayor Hardaway led the prayer.

Elaine Cantrell 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 Honorable Emmett Hardaway, 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, was approved without reading upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded by Ray Rasberry.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Ray Rasberry and seconded by Elaine Cantrell.

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of March 2005. Chief Richard noted that there was increase of arrests over March of 2004. Mayor Pro-Tem Louis Ratcliff thanked Chief Richard for participating in the Homeland Security Drill on April 6, 2005 at the Spirit dock on the river. The St. Mary Parish Sheriff's office and Barry Graham Offshore also participated in the drill. Mayor Hardaway asked Chief Richard to take a look at the truck route ordinance because of the increased activity on the water front. Chief Richard stated that the Town of Berwick has sixteen designated truck routes. The main congestion occurs on Belleview-Front Street when the trucks have to turn around and exit on Gus/Gilmore streets. Mayor Hardaway asked Chief Richard to ask the truckers when loaded to enter on Gilmore/Gus Streets and exit on Utah Street after they have unloaded their freight. They should reverse the process when the trucks come in unloaded. Mayor Hardaway also stated that some truck routes are not marked as truck routes even though they are still truck routes by ordinance. Mayor Pro-tem Louis Ratcliff asked that the Police Department be ready for the start of the baseball/softball season. He asked that officers patrol the ball parks and offer aid as needed.

Chief Garrett Guillot presented the fire report for the month of March 2005. There were seven fire calls for the month. Mayor Hardaway asked about the two calls to Joslyn's Fun Learning Center. One call was a false alarm. The mayor noted that three apparatuses responded to each fire and asked about the procedure for responding to fire calls. The mayor recalled that when he was a fireman, the procedure was that the first responder was a police officer and the officer relayed back to the fire department how they should to respond to the fire. Chief Guillot stated that the current policy was for two pumpers and one service truck to respond to a fire. Mayor Hardaway made sure that Chief Guillot knew that the volunteer firemen were under the rules of the road and should observe all traffic signs and rules. Chief Guillot stated that the new fire truck was put in service on February 28, 2005.

The Public Works report was the next item on the agenda. A copy of this report was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting. The fourth bridge on the walking trail has been installed. Councilman Thomas stated the section of the walking trail between the Post Office and Patterson State Bank had two bad spots that needed repair. Allen Benoit stated work on the new girl's

softball field is complete. Chief Richard stated that opening ceremonies for girl's softball would be May 2, 2005. There will be sixteen girl's teams this year. There will be inter-league play with Morgan City and Patterson.

Under committee reports, the planning and zoning recommended waiving the public hearing and grant approval for subdivision of property on Robison Street. The property had previously been approved but lacked the xy coordinates that are required by the assessor's office. Upon motion by Bill Johnson and seconded by Ray Rasberry the approval was granted unanimously.

Carl Jacob presented the consulting engineers report. Mr. Jacob stated that the process of installing utilities at the Hollywood Truck Stop on Highway was still ongoing. Bids for installing the force main under the railroad will be taken on April 13, 2005. The property owner still must install the gravity sewer line. The new pumping station on the Berwick Borrow canal 80% complete. The pumps should be installed by the end of April. On this subject, Mayor Pro-Tem Louis Ratcliff stated that the Wax Lake East Drainage District adopted a resolution calling for an election on July 16, 2005 for the renewal of 3.2 mil tax for operation and maintenance of the drainage district.

Item number one the agenda, appoint Robert Thigpen to the Berwick Housing Authority Board. On motion by Ray Rasberry and seconded by Elaine Cantrell, Mr. Thigpen was approved unanimously.

Item number two on the agenda, approve a liquor license for Hollywood Truck Stop and Joe Penn, Jr. Chief Richard stated that the background check had been completed and that he had no objections. Upon motion Ray Rasberry and seconded Louis Ratcliff, the license was approved unanimously.

Item number three on the agenda, to offer a resolution in opposition to the elimination of the Federal Community Block Grant Program. Upon motion by Louis Ratcliff and seconded by Bill Johnson, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item number four on the agenda was a complaint by Anna Scott about toy guns being used by children that resembled real guns. Ms. Scott was not present but Mayor Hardaway stated the guns are really realistic and would be hard for a police officer distinguish from a real gun. The fear is that some children could be harmed or killed. Chief Richard stated that he had contacted the newspaper to make the public aware of the problem. The Chief also had spoken to state and federal officials and found that there were no laws relating directly to these types of toy guns. Town attorney Allen McEllroy stated that the town has an ordinance pertaining to these types of toy guns and if a complaint was filed the person making the complaint should press charges. He also stated that if the police did not actually see the person discharge the toy gun, the police could not enforce the ordinance.

Item number five on the agenda was a complaint by Tim Cheramie concerning abandoned vehicles on private property. Mr. Cheramie was not present, but he contacted Mayor Hardaway and stated that his problem had been resolved. Councilman Thomas stated that the City of Morgan City was entertaining the idea of an ordinance dealing with abandoned vehicles and the Town of Berwick may want to discuss this problem with them.

Item number six on the agenda was a proclamation for National Fair Housing month. Mr. Jim Firmin and his staff had requested this proclamation. No motion was necessary.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Elaine Cantrell and seconded by Bill Johnson the meeting adjourned.

Emmett Hardaway, Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter, CAO/Town Clerk