



## Town of Berwick

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

April 8, 2008

Date of Notice: April 1, 2008

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: April 8, 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: March 11, 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. 578 – Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1 (f) on public wharves and docks
2. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17, Article III – Parades, Processions and Demonstrations
3. Adopt Ordinance No. 578 – Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1 (f) on public wharves and docks
4. Adopt Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17, Article III – Parades, Processions and Demonstrations
5. Agreement & Resolution - Town of Berwick & Berwick Development District/Renwick Phase III
6. Discuss proposed amendment to Chapter 4, Article III – Vicious Dogs
7. Resolution No. 7-08 – Opposing state collection of local sales taxes
8. Proclamation No. 4-08 – Alcohol Awareness Month
9. Glen Rebaradi – Workers Comp Insurance

#### 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**

**April 8, 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, April 8, 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.

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 Edgar Thomas.

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

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, 2008. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for March, 2008 were a lot less than March, 2007. Chief Richard also compared citations and arrests for 2008 to 2007. Chief Richard stated that an arrest had been made in the case involving the burglarizing of cars in Country Club Estates. The suspect is in jail awaiting trial. Chief Richard stated that he had received a call concerning parking of cars along the side of Whitworth Street in Country Club Estates. There is an ordinance banning the parking of cars along the side of Whitworth that runs along the pipeline. The chief asked that the Mayor and Council consider amending the ordinance to remove the ban on parking along Whitworth. Mayor Ratcliff appointed a committee of Chief Richard, Duval Arthur and Troy Lombardo and asked that they study the problem and report back to the Mayor and Council. 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 did not have a report for March. Chief Fromenthal thanked the citizens of Berwick for their support in their fund drive. It was a big success. He also expressed his desire for a fire hydrant to be placed along Highway 182 near the Ray Rasberry fire station. Mayor Ratcliff suggested meeting with Allen Benoit after the council meeting to arrange for the fire hydrant to be installed. Chief Fromenthal stated that the training held at the Rasberry Fire Station was a success. Mayor Ratcliff mentioned to Chief Fromenthal that there had been some complaints concerning the smoke coming from the training area and asked that further training of that nature be held at the Civic Center. 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. Mr. Benoit stated that the cleaning of the Mount Street ditch had begun and should be finished on April 9. The repair of the bulkhead near Assembly of God Church should start on April 10. He added that hopefully funding could be arranged to complete the closure of the ditch to Highway 182. He stated that the Atchafalaya River is scheduled to crest at 7.4 feet on April 13 and this will not be a problem for the citizens of Berwick. Mr. Benoit also stated that Todd Tabor has successfully completed the requirements to be certified as a Level

II sanitation sewer operator. Mr. Benoit stated that the town is currently in the third phase of the installation of the new stand-by generator for Town Hall. This entails running the lines and setting the automatic transfer switch in place. After the switch is in place an electrician will tie the new wires into the new generator. Phase four should be commencing by the week of April 14 at which time the new generator will be made operational. The town hall will be on generator power for approximately four days during this period. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer, Miller Engineers & Associates, represented by Reid Miller, stated that the contractor for Phase III of Renwick Subdivision has installed the sewer main line and all the manholes. Storm drains are approximately 20% complete. The contractor has one crew on site and is bringing a second crew on April 9, 2008. Contractor pay request No. 1 has been submitted in the amount of \$71,185.46. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, pay request No. 1 was approved unanimously.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning Board did not meet in March. Councilman Damon Robison reported that the Economic Development Committee had submitted a report to the council. Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur presented the Recreation Committee report. The committee met with Allen Benoit about the putting a soft touch material under the playground equipment at the Civic Center and Pharr Park. The committee will present a proposal to the council at a later date. Opening ceremonies for the Dixie Youth baseball program will be held at the Bayou Vista ball field on April 11 at 5:30 P.M. The first game in Berwick will be April 28. 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. 578 – Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1 (f) on public wharves and docks. Jared Rebaradi asked to speak concerning the no docking ordinance. He asked that the Mayor and Council consider allowing the docking of vessels at the dock. Mayor Ratcliff stated that the council wished to have that area of the dock be considered as part of the Lighthouse Park and be used by the citizens of Berwick to view the river. After Mr. Rebaradi spoke, Albert Vaughn addressed the mayor and council. He was concerned about the need for dock space on the river and he was also concerned about junk cars around town. Mayor Ratcliff told Mr. Vaughn that the public hearing was only for the docking issue at the Lighthouse Park and the junk car issue could be taken up at the next council meeting. Mr. Vaughn asked that he be added to the agenda for the May 13, 2008 meeting. After no further comments from the council or the audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 578.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17, Article III – Parades, Processions and Demonstrations. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 579.

Item #3 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 578 - Amend Chapter 21, Section 21-1 (f) on public wharves and docks. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 579 – Amend Chapter 17, Article III – Parades Processions and Demonstrations. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Penny Crappell, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Agreement and resolution – Town of Berwick & Berwick Development District. This agreement is the first step in a process that would allow the Berwick Development District to begin taking deposits on lots in Phase III of Renwick Subdivision. The District would have to have the Planning and Zoning Boards approval before accepting deposits on lots. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Discuss proposed amendment to Chapter 4, Article III, Vicious Dogs. Chief James Richard stated that the town has five pit bulls registered. A citation was issued on April 8 for a violation of the ordinance. He stated that it is very hard to maintain control of the problem. Chief

Richard stated that he would like to see pit bulls banned from the Town of Berwick. He would like to see the definition of a pit bull dog refined to add the names of any pit bull terrier. After much discussion, Mayor Ratcliff asked that a committee made up of Chief James Richard, CAO Newell Slaughter and Damon Robison study the ordinance and report back to the council with possible solutions.

Item #7 on the agenda – Resolution No. 7-08 – Opposing state collection of local sales taxes. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Duval Arthur the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 4-08 – Alcohol Awareness Month. Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed April 2008 as Alcohol Awareness Month.

Item #9 on the agenda – Glen Rebaradi – Workman’s Compensation Insurance for volunteer firefighters. Glen Rebaradi addressed the mayor and council concerning the workman’s compensation insurance for the volunteer firefighters. It was his understanding that the town was providing them insurance through BFI. Mayor Ratcliff stated that the State Fire Marshall provided the volunteers with workman compensation insurance, but Mr. Rebaradi stated that the amount of the benefit was not as great as the VFI policy. Mayor Pro-Tem Arthur asked that the police reserves be included in the workman compensation plan. Mayor Ratcliff stated that action will be taken to correct the issue.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Duval Arthur 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