



Town of Berwick

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

April 14, 2009

Date of Notice: April 7, 2009

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: April 14, 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: March 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. 600 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road
2. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 601 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road
3. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road
4. Adopt Ordinance No. 600 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road
5. Adopt Ordinance No. 601 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road
6. Adopt Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road
7. Proclamation No. 5-09 – Rodney Grogan/Jacki Ackel - St. Mary Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
8. Adopt “Red Flag Rules” – Identify Theft Prevention Program
9. Resolution No. 11-09 – Keep St. Mary Beautiful – Randy Lewis
10. Approve annual allocation to Keep St. Mary Beautiful - \$4,954.74
11. Proclamation No. 6-09 – Silver Star Banner Day(honoring our nations wounded, ill and slain service men)
12. VJ Bella – Presentation to Mrs. Bill Leftwich
13. Resolution No. 12-09 – In opposition to Federal FY 2010 for Department of Energy(elimination of 30 billion in funding of alternative energy sources)
14. Resolution No. 13-09 – Authorizing Mayor Ratcliff to make application to the Louisiana Community Development Enrichment Fund to connect Second Street to existing 12” water main.
15. Resolution No. 14-09 – 2009 Louisiana Recreational Trails Application

### 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 14, 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, April 14, 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur 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, 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 Troy Lombardo.

Debbie Acosta representing Relay for Life addressed the mayor and council asked for their support to "Paint the Community Purple". Beginning April 20 through May 2, Mrs. Acosta has asked for help in "Painting the Town of Berwick Purple" in support of the fight against cancer. She asked that everyone wear purple on Friday, May 1. The Relay for Life will be held at Morgan City Tiger Stadium on Saturday, May 2, 2009.

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, 2009. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for March 2009 were a little higher than 2008. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for March 2009 were less than March 2008. Chief Richard reminded the mayor and council that the Dare Graduation would be held for the Berwick Elementary fifth graders on April 23. Chief Richard hopes to have a Berwick police officer trained to conduct the Dare course by the next school year. 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 3 fire calls for the month two of which were false alarms. Chief Fromenthal stated that the open house at the Central Station was a success and that he was pleased with the turnout. Chief Fromenthal stated that the fund raising drive was progressing well and that about \$7,500 was received to date. Chief Fromenthal stated that all fire trucks were in working order and ready for calls. 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. Curb repair has begun in the old part of town and will progress to the rest of the town. Lighthouse rehabilitation is 100% complete with the exception of the hand rails. The installation of the sewer force main at Stazione's is nearing completion. Town crews will install a new gas meter at Stazione's for a backup generator in the near future. The installation of this generator will make fuel available to the town in case of power outages as a result of storm activity. Bids for the paving project of Belleview/Front Street have been mailed. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, is working on updating the zoning ordinances for the town. The board discussed items that will be removed or revised. The Berwick Development District awarded a contract to develop the park area on Shadowlawn Drive in Renwick Subdivision. The method of handling violations to Renwick Subdivision Covenants was also discussed. The construction of the motel on Highway 90 is progressing on schedule. Councilwoman Penny Crappell recognized Randy Louis, director of Keep St. Mary Beautiful who was in attendance. Keep St. Mary Beautiful was officially certified as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful on March 31, 2009. Duval Arthur presented the Recreation report for Mrs. Rhonda Burtner. Approximately 200 girls have registered for the Berwick/Bayou Vista softball league. All games will be played at the Berwick Civic Center. Adult co-ed volleyball league play has begun. A new support system for the volleyball net will be installed in April. The new playground equipment was installed on April 3, 2009. However, the merry-go-round was installed improperly and will have to be reinstalled. The Aztec Climber will have to be moved as well because the fall space requirements were not met. Jeffrey Roblow with Bliss Products will meet with Mrs. Burtner on April 20 and discuss solutions to the problems. The lights on the Pony League field are in the process of being repaired and repairs should be complete before the end of April. The Economic Development and Blighted Property committees did not meet. Penny Crappell gave a report on the Cemetery and stated that there were no complaints in 2009 and that the majority of the complaints were in 2005. Most of the complaints dealt with noise and trash from the residents on St. Clair Alley. Councilwoman Crappell stated that Newell Slaughter and Allen Benoit met with Glen Collins, director of BIMS, and discussed the maintenance of the cemetery. Mr. Collins assured them that he would address the tall grass and trash problems in the cemetery. 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. 600 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 601 – Rezone property at 2280 River Road. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #4 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 600 – Rezone property at 2289 River Road. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 601– Rezone property at 2280 River Road. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 602 – Rezone property at 2283 River Road. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 5-09 – St. Mary Substance Abuse Prevention Committee – Rodney Grogan, Project Director for the St. Mary Parish Substance Abuse Coalition addressed the mayor and council and thanked them for proclaiming the last week in April as “Orange Ribbon Week” and that the last weekend in April be declared as alcohol free. Mr. Grogan stated that St. Mary Parish had been designated as a “hot spot” for alcohol abuse and that since the Town of Berwick has a small police force, the town would be receiving a grant to allow for overtime pay to Berwick Police Officers to keep impaired drivers off town streets.

Item #8 on the agenda – Adopt “Red Flag Rules” – Identify Theft Prevention Program. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded Duval Arthur the “Red Flag Rules” were adopted unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda Resolution No. 11-09 – Keep St. Mary Beautiful. Mr. Randy Lewis asked that the Town of Berwick join with the Keep St. Mary Beautiful Committee and the State Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in the Litter Free Weekend scheduled for April 17-19 to raise the awareness and consequences of littering and dumping. Mayor Ratcliff read the resolution and upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Approve annual allocation to Keep St. Mary Beautiful in the amount of \$4,954.74. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Damon Robison, the allocation was approved unanimously.

Item #11 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 6-09 – Silver Star Banner Day (honoring our nations wounded, ill and slain service men) – Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed May 1, 2009, as Silver Star Banner Day in the Town of Berwick.

Item #12 on the agenda – V.J. Bella – Presentation to Mrs. Bill Leftwich. Mr. Bella presented a framed resolution of respect to the daughters of Bill Leftwich.

Item #13 on the agenda – Resolution No. 12-09 – A resolution in opposition to Federal FY 2010 budget for the Department of Energy that would eliminate 30 billion in funding of alternative energy sources. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item#14 on the agenda – Resolution No. 13-09 – Authorizing Mayor Ratcliff to make application to the Louisiana Community Development Enrichment Fund for a grant that would be used to connect residents on Second Street to the existing 12” water main. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item #15 on the agenda – Resolution No. 14-09 – 2009 Louisiana Recreational Trails Application. A resolution of the Town of Berwick of St. Mary Parish approving the application for grant funds from the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

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