



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

April 13, 2010

Date of Notice: April 6, 2010

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: April 13, 2010
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: Duval Arthur, Penny Crappell, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, Edgar Thomas
Minutes from last meeting: March 9, 2010
Treasurer's Report
Guests:
Police Report
Fire Report
Public Works Report
Consulting Engineers Report
Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 611 –Article II. Unsafe, dangerous, dilapidated, abandoned structures**
- 2. Adopt Ordinance No. 611 - Article II. Unsafe, dangerous, dilapidated and abandoned structures**
- 3. Diane Wiltz – Franklin Black Bear and Birding Festival**
- 4. Relay for Life – Brandon Monceaux**
- 5. Proclamation No. 03-10 - Silver Star Banner Day – May 1, 2010**
- 6. Resolution No. 08-10 – Resolution of respect for J.C. LaCoste**
- 7. Bill Hidalgo – St. Mary Levee District**
- 8. Resolution No. 09-10 - 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 13, 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, April 13, 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 Damon Robison led the prayer.

Councilman Edgar Thomas 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.

Mayor Ratcliff recognized the following guests: Parish President Paul Naquin, Parish Councilman Gary Duhon, Norris Crappell, James Vidos, and Barry Broussard. The guests were attending to support St. Mary Parish Levee Board member Bill Hidalgo who was presenting a report on the proposed five mill property tax that, if approved by the citizens of St. Mary Parish, will be used for maintenance and improvements to levees in the St. Mary Parish.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of March, 2010. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for March, 2010 were higher than March, 2009. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for March, 2010 were higher than March, 2009. 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, but Mayor Ratcliff stated that there were three fire calls for February, with one extrication, one pipeline rupture and one good intent call. 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. Mayor Ratcliff asked about the ruptured water lines that occurred during March. Mr. Benoit replied that the dry weather conditions and the high river stage were causing the lines to rupture. Mr. Benoit stated that the river was cresting and should begin falling this week. 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 did not meet in March, but is scheduled to meet in April to consider a map amendment for Utah Street. The Economic Development Committee did not meet. The Anti-litter Committee met and they have received another \$9,600. Six parish schools have agreed to implement a recycling program, including Berwick Junior High. Recreation advisory committee chairman Penny Crappell gave a report. The construction of the observation deck and canopy for the playground at the Civic Center has been completed. 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. The softball league has started practicing. 186 girls are participating in the league this year. Co-ed adult volleyball will begin play on May 10. Dixie Youth Baseball is in full swing. The slab for the batting cage has been completed. The contractor should install the cover in April. 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. Councilman Troy Lombardo gave a report from the Lakes & Pits Committee. He stated that the committee met with Leesa Foreman to discuss ideas and gather information relating to the digging of lakes and pits in the Town. The committee gave Ms. Foreman language and guidelines that they would like to see in a proposed ordinance that would regulate the digging of lakes and pits. Ms. Foreman will have a proposed ordinance ready to introduce at the May 11 council meeting. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 611 – Article III. Unsafe Dangerous, dilapidated and abandoned structures. Mayor Ratcliff opened the public hearing for comments from the council and the audience. The Reverend Nolen Borel of the First United Pentecostal Church was the first speaker. Rev. Borel stated that the property adjacent to his church's property was very run down and that it is devaluing his property. He stated that he was in favor of the town adopting the ordinance. Charlene Morris, who resides at 709 Utah Street, stated that she was also in favor of adopting the ordinance. She stated that the property on Sixth Street as well as a trailer park on Utah Street was in need of attention. After no further comments, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 611 – Article III. Unsafe, dangerous, dilapidated and abandoned structures. After a brief statement by Councilman Robison, Duval Arthur made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Penny Crappell seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Diane Wiltz – Franklin Black Bear and Birding Festival. Ms. Wiltz addressed the mayor and council and invited all to attend the seventh annual festival which will be held on April 16-18 in Franklin. Ms. Wiltz provided the mayor and council with a festival poster and other gifts and pastries that will be available for sale at the festival.

Item #4 on the agenda – Relay For Life – Brandon Monceaux. Brandon gave a brief report on the event which will be held on May 1 at Berwick High School football stadium. It should start at 4:00 P.M. and end at 6:00 A.M. the next morning. Mr. Monceaux stated that the live bands would stop playing at mid-night. He thanked the Town for all of their assistance in preparing for the event and he expects 3,000 to 5,000 people to attend. He also stated that the week before the event the committee would "Paint the Town Purple" by handing out purple ribbons and placing purple wreaths around town. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the council unanimously approved and supported the moving of Relay For Life to Berwick High School.

Item #5 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 03-10 - Silver Star Banner Day - Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed May 1, 2010 as Silver Star Banner Day, honoring our nations wounded, ill and slain service men and women.

Item #6 on the agenda – Resolution No. 08-10 – Resolution of Respect for J.C. LaCoste. Mayor Ratcliff read a resolution of respect for Mr. J.C. LaCoste who served the Berwick Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years and was the father of Fire Chief Wayne LaCoste.

Item #7 on the agenda – Bill Hidalgo – St. Mary Levee District. Mr. Hidalgo spoke to the mayor and council seeking support for the proposed 5 mill property tax that will be before the voters on May 1, 2010. The levee district was formed in 2007 and is empowered by the legislature to levy up to a 5 mill property tax that can be used for maintenance and construction of levees. Mr. Hidalgo stated that a home valued at \$150,000 would be assessed \$37.50 per year. A million dollar business would be assessed \$500. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, they voted unanimously to support the levee board's 5 mill property election.

Item #8 on the agenda – Resolution No. 09-10 – Louisiana Recreational Trails Application. A resolution in support on an application that would extend the Berwick Walking Trail from Pattie Drive along Fairview Drive to Renwick Boulevard. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the resolution was approved unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk