

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWN OF BERWICK, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY

January 14, 2003

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, January 14, 2003 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Edgar Thomas, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Emmett Hardaway, Councilmen, Louis Ratcliff, Bill Johnson, Ray Rasberry, Elaine Cantrell and Edgar Thomas Jr. were sworn into office by Cliff Dressel, Clerk of Court as the newly elected officials for the Town of Berwick. Lily Rebaradi, Justice of the Peace and Duval Arthur III, Constable were also sworn in by Mr. Dressel at this time.

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berwick, State of Louisiana were duly convened as the governing authority of said Town, by Hon. 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, were approved on motion by Mr. Rasberry and seconded by Mr. Johnson.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Ms. Cantrell and seconded by Mr. Ratcliff.

Assistant Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of December 2002 and a yearly recap. Mr. Ratcliff asked if there was a drop off of complaints originating at Pepper's Lounge. Assistant Chief Richard stated that there had been no improvement.

Fire Chief Ray Rasberry stated that there were five fire calls for the month of December, 2002.

The Public Works report was presented by Mr. Allen Benoit, a copy of which was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting.

Gulf South Engineers' monthly report was included in the packet, which each Councilman received prior to the meeting. There were five items as follows: (1) On the North LA 182 Pathway Extension project, Gray Brothers is working on the bridge and awaiting dry weather for the paving work. (2) South LA 182 Pathway Extension: final plans have been submitted to LDOTD for bidding. (3) The police department building addition was included in the 2002 State Capital Outlay Bill, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement was received and executed this month. (4) State Capital Outlay 2003: applications were made on three projects: (a) Public Works storage building, (b) Reroofing Town Hall (in case not funded in 2002) and (c) Pattie Drive Extension. (5) Assisting Leesa Foreman with Downtown Redevelopment Master Plan. Regular monthly public meetings have been held at Town Hall.

Mayor Hardaway proceeded to appoint Mr. Louis Ratcliff as Mayor Pro-Tem and upon motion by Ms. Cantrell, second by Mr. Johnson, this appointment was unanimously approved.

Mayor Hardaway asked for a motion to adopt a Resolution appointing Cathy T. Guidry as Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector. Upon motion by Mr. Rasberry, second by Mr. Ratcliff, this Resolution was unanimously approved.

Newell “Bubba” Slaughter was appointed Chief Administrative Officer upon motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Thomas and with unanimous approval.

Duval Arthur was appointed Police Chief, upon motion by Mr. Ratcliff, second by Ms. Cantrell and with unanimous approval.

Allen McElroy, Jr. was appointed Town Attorney upon motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Rasberry and unanimous approval.

J.P. Morella was appointed City Court Magistrate upon motion by Mr. Rasberry, second by Mr. Ratcliff and unanimous approval.

Gary Beadle was appointed Planning & Zoning Director upon motion by Mr. Ratcliff, second by Ms. Cantrell and unanimous approval.

Mayor Hardaway asked for approval to establish the following boards and to make the following appointments:

1. Berwick Development District – Damon Robison, Cliff Watson, Murval Guidroz, Jr., Marilyn Vick and Alvin Willis.
2. Berwick Planning & Zoning Board – Dianne Duplantis, Darlene Skelton, Rollan Guidroz, Adam Crappel, Jeremy Callais.
3. Berwick Housing Authority – Kim Byers, Robert Thigpen, Duval Arthur, Lily Rebaradi, Sara Campbell, and Bridgette Exnicious.
4. Berwick Board of Adjustments – Mike Thomason, Rodney Grow, Francis Russo, Robert Hughes and Norris Crappell.
5. Berwick Recreation Board – Duval Arthur, Hattie Lawton, Mark Landry and Edgar Thomas, Jr.
6. Berwick Water Works Joint Board of B.V. and Berwick – Jack Boudreaux and Oway Rogers.
7. East Wax Lake Drainage District Board – Louis Ratcliff and Leroy Gray.
8. Wards 5 & 8 Consolidated Sewer District Board – Rafael Lopez.
9. Berwick Garden Club & Berwick Development District Liason – Elaine Cantrell.

Upon motion by Mr. Rasberry, second by Mr. Thomas and with unanimous approval the above mentioned boards were established and the appointments made.

Mayor Hardaway asked for approval to appoint the following committees:

1. Atchafalaya River Committee – Louis Ratcliff.
2. Finance Committee – Bill Johnson, Edgar Thomas, Jr., and Newell Slaughter
3. Public Safety Committee – Ray Rasberry, Duval Arthur, and Allen Benoit

Upon motion by Mr. Thomas, second by Ms. Cantrell and unanimous approval the committees were approved.

GSE Associates, Inc. was appointed the engineering firm upon motion by Mr. Ratcliff, second by Mr. Johnson and unanimous approval.

Mayor Hardaway asked for a motion to approve a Resolution appointing Whitney Bank as the fiscal agent for the town and authorizing the signing of bank drafts for the Town. The Resolution was approved upon motion by Mr. Rasberry, second by Ms. Cantrell and unanimous approval.

A Resolution appointing Newell Slaughter, CAO as the point of contact for the Town on the Police Dept. Addition Project with the La. Division of Administration was approved upon motion by Ms. Cantrell, second by Mr. Johnson and with unanimous approval.

The Mayor called for a public hearing on Ord. #514 – to Amend Article III. Weeds and other Rank Conditions and Ord. #515 – Amending Ord. #455, Health Insurance Benefits after Retirement, including only Town employees, excluding Council members. There being no comments the Mayor closed the public hearing.

The Mayor asked that the Council consider for adoption Ord. #514. Upon motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Ratcliff and with unanimous approval, Ord. #514 was adopted as written.

Ord. #515 was adopted as written, upon motion by Mr. Ratcliff, second by Mr. Rasberry and unanimous approval.

On the agenda was Payment Request #1 from Gray Bros. on the North Pathway Extension in the amount of \$13,741.10. Upon motion by Ms. Cantrell, second by Mr. Johnson and unanimous approval, the payment was approved.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, appeared before the Mayor and Council with a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board's meeting of January 7, 2003 to approve the introduction of an Ordinance to enact new provisions regarding the uses permitted within the B-1, B-2, and B-3 Zoning Districts and to address other matters relative thereto. Upon motion by Mr. Ratcliff, second by Mr. Johnson and unanimous approval the Ordinance was introduced.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly made and seconded, meeting adjourned.

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Emmett Hardaway, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cathy T. Guidry, Town Clerk