



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

May 12, 2015

Date of Notice: May 5, 2015

A Public Hearing will be held as follows:

Date: May 12, 2015
Time: 7:15 P.M.
Place: Council Meeting Room
3225 Third Street
Berwick, LA 70342

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jacki Ackel, Duval Arthur, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, Greg Roussel

Minutes from last meeting: April 14, 2015

Treasurer's Report

The Beacon Shines on...

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

PUBLIC HEARINGS @ 7:15

- 1. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 663 – Set Millage Rates for 2015**
- 2. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 664 – Set Drainage Fee for 2015**
- 3. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 665 – Amend, Change, Re-Enact, section of Town's Subdivision Regulations**

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCE/ADOPT

- 1. Adopt Ordinance No. 663 – Set Millage Rates for 2015**
- 2. Adopt Ordinance No. 664 – Set Drainage Fee for 2015**
- 3. Adopt Ordinance No. 665 – Amend, Change, Re-Enact, section of Town's Subdivision Regulations**

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- 1.**

New Business:

- 1. Gerald Thibodeaux – Present 2013-14 Audit Report**

Adjournment

Newell Slaughter, Town Clerk

Town of Berwick

P.O. Box 486

Berwick, Louisiana 70342

(985) 384-8858

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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**

May 12, 2015

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, May 12, 2015, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Council members Jacki Ackel, Duval Arthur, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, and Greg Roussel.

Absent: None

Also present was a representative of KWBj and The Daily Review.

Councilman Troy Lombardo 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 were approved without reading upon motion by Jacki Ackel and seconded by Troy Lombardo.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Jacki Ackel and seconded by Damon Robison.

The Beacon Shined on Nicole "Nickie" Hall. Councilman Duval Arthur presented Mrs. Hall and thanked her for her many contributions to the town and its citizens.

The guests for May, 2015 were Clarence Robinson and Beverly Domengeaux. Mr. Robinson of the Berwick Housing Authority presented the town a check for the 2015 PILOT tax. Mrs. Domengeaux thanked the Mayor and Council for their help and contributions to the St. Mary Council on Aging and invited them to memorial services that will be held in Patterson, Morgan City and Franklin on May 12-14, 2015.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of April, 2015. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for April, 2015, were about half the amount written in April, 2014. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the fire report.

Chief Allen Rink presented the fire report and stated that they had 38 calls for April, 2015. There were 27 medical assist calls, 3 vehicle accidents, 4 good intention calls, 1 oven fire, and 3 false alarms. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

Public Works Director Rafael Lopez presented the Public Works report for April. Town crews are working on many projects at this time. Crews are repairing streets and sidewalks, repairing water leaks, cutting grass on the highways and other projects. Construction of the gazebo on the river is 100% complete. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer Reid Miller was present and stated that the design of the proposed sewer project on Highway 182 and Old Spanish Trail is completed. The plans have been forwarded to Facility Planning and Control in Baton Rouge. He is also working on Right of Ways, and our permit is in the Corp of Engineers hands awaiting approval. After no further committee reports, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Public Safety, Recreation, and Wharf Committees had nothing to report. Troy Lombardo stated that he had received some positive comments regarding the new gazebo on the river. Mayor Pro-Tem Jacki Ackel stated that Keep St. Mary Beautiful held two litter pickups in April. One on the west end of the parish and one in Morgan

City. After no further committee reports, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, **Public Hearings.**

Item #1 under Public Hearings – Public hearing for Ordinance No. 663 – Set Millage Rates for 2015. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 under Public Hearings – Public hearing for Ordinance No. 664 – Set Drainage Fee for 2015. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 under Public Hearings – Public hearing for Ordinance No. 665 – Amend, Change, Re-Enact, section of Town’s Subdivision Regulations. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #1 under Ordinances – Introduce/Adopt – Adopt Ordinance No. 663 – Set Millage Rate for 2015. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Item #2 under Ordinances – Introduce/Adopt – Adopt Ordinance No. 664 – Set Drainage Fee for 2015. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Greg Roussel, the ordinance was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Item #3 under Ordinances – Adopt Ordinance No. 665 – Amend, Change, Re-Enact, section of Town’s subdivision regulations. After much discussion, Troy Lombardo made a motion to Amend 665 to include new wording regarding exemption to Drainage Impact Study in all new subdivisions. Greg Roussel seconded the motion. The amendment was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Greg Roussel then made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 665. Troy Lombardo seconded the motion. Mayor Ratcliff asked the council if there would be further discussion. Councilman Robison stated that he would like to discuss several items in the proposed ordinance. He was concerned with the proposed concrete streets and the proposed three year warranty from the developer. He said that the standard warranty for this type of work is one year. Mayor Ratcliff stated that he took the three year warranty from the Iberia Parish building code. Town Engineer Reid Miller stated that the standard construction contract contained one year warranty. Town Attorney Allen McElroy stated that the warranty could be transferred to the town if the language was included in the original contract. Councilman Robison is concerned that the town would be pricing private developers out of the market in Berwick. He stated that with the proposal that houses in Berwick would be in the \$350,000 - \$400,000 range and who would be able to afford those homes. After much discussion, Councilman Lombardo stated that he was concerned with the maintenance that will be required for asphalt streets. He stated that the town does not have the necessary equipment and personnel to repair asphalt streets. Councilman Robison also had concerns with the water distribution system changes. According to the regulations, if an adjacent property required a larger water pipe to maintain pressure in a later developed subdivision, the developer would install that pipe and the town would reimburse the developer for the extra cost of the pipe. He would like to see this remain the same as the original regulation. Regarding the asphalt streets versus concrete streets, Councilman Lombardo stated to Councilman Robison that he would commit to discuss allowing asphalt streets in Berwick with engineering guidelines that state the specifications for the base and traveling surface of the street. Councilman Robison made a motion, seconded by Councilman Greg Roussel, to amend the amended ordinance to exclude the revision to Section 17.25-6 (G) (2) to request that larger mains when deemed necessary for future development. The motion to amend the amended ordinance was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Councilman Lombardo made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 665 as amended twice, with the caveat that the Town Attorney and the Town Engineer provide the mayor and council with more information and specifications on the proposal to limit new subdivision to concrete only and the proposed three year warranty on new subdivisions. Councilman Robison seconded the motion. The ordinance was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Item #1 on the agenda under New Business – Gerald Thibodeaux – Present 2013-14 Audit Report. Mr. Thibodeaux was unable to attend the council meeting and will be scheduled for a later date.

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

Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk