



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

May 13, 2014

Date of Notice: May 13, 2013

A Public Hearing will be held as follows:

Date: May 13, 2014
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: Duval Arthur, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, Greg Roussel, Edgar Thomas

Minutes from last meeting: April 8, 2014

Treasurer's Report

The Beacon Shines on...

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Greg Aucoin – Candidate for Judge**
- 2. Fallen Warriors Memorial – Mark Distefano**
- 3. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 653 – Set Millage Rates for 2014**
- 4. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 654 – Set Drainage Fee for 2014**
- 5. Public Hearing for church in residential zone R-3 (Fourth Street – Old BIMS)**
- 6. Adopt Ordinance No. 653 – Set Millage Rates for 2014**
- 7. Adopt Ordinance No. 654 – Set Drainage Fee for 2014**
- 8. Take action on application for a church in residential zone R-3 (Fourth Street – Old BIMS)**
- 9. Diana Briehn – Sheer Elegance – Problem with neighbors**
- 10. Resolution No. 18-11 – Designate Newell Slaughter as point of contact with Louisiana FP&C**
- 11. St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Benevolent Association – Jennifer McDill – 5K Run**
- 12. Gerald Thibodeaux – Present 2012-13 Audit Report**
- 13. Approve Liquor License for Hollywood Casino (pending state approval)**
- 14. Clarence Robinson – Berwick Housing Authority – Present Pilot Check for 2013**
- 15. Introduce Ordinance No. 655 – To amend Chapter 3, Section 329, Sales, consumption of alcoholic beverages and liquor on streets, sidewalks, or in public**
- 16. Introduce Ordinance No. 656 to lease waterfront parcels 1, 4 and 5 to D & S Marine Transport**
- 17. Introduce Ordinance No. 657 to lease waterfront parcels 2 & 3 to Mathilde Wilson Person and Three Brothers Properties**

Adjournment

Newell 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 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**

May 13, 2014

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 13, 2014, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Councilman Edgar Thomas 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 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 Greg Roussel.

The Beacon did not shine on anyone for May, 2014.

Guests: Beverly Domengeaux, St. Mary Council on Aging, stated that May was Senior Month.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of April, 2014. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for April, 2014, were about the same amount written in April, 2013. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for April, 2014, were also about the same amount made in April, 2013. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the fire report.

Fire Chief Allen Rink presented the fire report and stated that they had 27 calls for April, 2014. There were 12 medical assist calls, 7 vehicle accidents, 3 good intention calls, 3 small fires and 2 false alarms. Chief Rink also stated that the floors in the River Road Fire Station and the Central Fire Station have been repainted and that they look great. 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. Town crews are working on many projects at this time. They are currently working on the Atchafalaya River and Bottleneck Farms sections of the Berwick Walking Trail. Crews are also spraying vegetation in drainage ditches. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Councilman Lombardo stated that the upgrade of the basketball court at Willie Steward Park has begun and weather permitting, it should be completed within the next month. Planning & Zoning director Gary Beadle stated the Planning and Zoning Board met and recommended that the mayor and council call for a public hearing to allow for conditional use to allow boat and marine vessel building and repair on Belleview/Front Street. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur, the motion passed unanimously. The Economic Development committee and the Anti-Litter Committee had nothing to report. Town Engineer Reid Miller was present, but did not have a report. After no further committee reports, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Greg Aucoin – Candidate for judge. Mr. Aucoin did not attend the meeting.

Item #2 on the agenda – Fallen Warriors Memorial – Mark Distefano. Mr. Distefano did not attend the meeting.

Item #3 on the agenda – Call for public hearing for Ordinance No. 653 – Set Millage rates for 2014. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #4 on the agenda – Call for public hearing for Ordinance No. 654 – Set Drainage Fee for 2014. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #5 on the agenda – Call for public hearing for church in residential zone R-3 (Fourth Street – Old BIMS). Rev. Gerald McGuire and Rev. Lee Condo spoke on behalf of the proposed church and stated that they are in negotiations to obtain the property on Fourth Street, but first needed approval from the Mayor and Council to proceed. They stated that they have many plans for the church including helping single mothers and needy children. After no further comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #6 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 653 – Set Millage Rates for 2014. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item #7 on the agenda – Set Drainage Fee for 2014. Upon motion by Greg Roussel and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item #8 on the agenda – Take action on application for a church in residential zone R-3 (Fourth Street – Old BIMS). Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the application was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item #9 on the agenda – Diana Briehn – Sheer Elegance – Problem with neighbors. Ms. Briehn did not attend the meeting.

Item #10 on the agenda – Resolution No. 18-14 – Designate Newell Slaughter as point of contact with Louisiana FP&C. Upon motion by Greg Roussel and seconded by Damon Robison, the resolution passed unanimously.

Item #11 on agenda – St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Benevolent Association – Jennifer McDill – 5K Run. Upon motion Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the parade permit was approved unanimously.

Item #12 on the agenda – Gerald Thibodeaux – Present FY 2013 Audit Report. Mr. Thibodeaux presented the report to the mayor and council stating that the financial statements were presented fairly, but there were two material misstatements that were not detected by the town and resulted in audit adjustments. The town also received an adverse opinion because the statements did not include financial data from the Berwick Development District.

Item #13 on the agenda – Approve Liquor License for Hollywood Casino (pending state approval). Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the license was approved unanimously.

Item #14 on the agenda – Clarence Robinson – Berwick Housing Authority – Present PILOT check for 2013. After thanking Mr. Robinson for his work with the Housing Authority, Mayor Ratcliff accepted the check for PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) in the amount of \$22,756.19.

Item #15 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 655 – To amend Chapter 3, Section 329, Sales, consumption of alcoholic beverages and liquor on streets, sidewalks, or in public. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #16 on the agenda – Lease waterfront parcels 1, 4, & 5 to D & S Marine Transport. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #17 on the agenda – Lease water front parcels 2 & 3 to MWP Properties and Three Brothers Properties. Mayor Ratcliff called for a motion to introduce the ordinance but Councilman Lombardo asked the ordinance be tabled until the June 10 council meeting. He wanted to use the time

to explore options regarding concerns he had with provisions in the lease agreement. Mr. McElroy stated that the issues Mr. Lombardo had with the lease could be discussed at the public hearing and the ordinance could be amended and adopted at the public hearing that is scheduled for June 10, 2014. After much discussion, Duval Arthur made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Robison seconded the motion. The ordinance was introduced successfully with a vote of four yes and one no. Mr. Lombardo was the no vote.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the meeting adjourned.

Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk