



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

May 8, 2007

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: April 10, 2007
Treasurer's Report
Police Report
Fire Report
Public Works Report
Committee Reports
Consulting Engineers Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. St. Mary Council on Aging – Beverly Dememgeaux
2. Proclamation – Teacher Appreciation Week
3. St. Mary Genealogical & Historical Society
4. Discuss Phase III Renwick Subdivision
- 5.

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk
Town of Berwick
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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 8, 2007

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 8, 2007 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Council members, Edgar Thomas, Damon Robison, Penny Crappell and Troy Lombardo.

Absent: Duval Arthur

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

Councilwoman Penny Crappell led the prayer.

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 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 Troy Lombardo and seconded by Edgar Thomas.

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

Chief James Richard presented the police report, a copy of which was included in each of the Councilmen's packets, for the month of April 2007. Chief Richard stated that the report for April 2007 was very similar to April 2006. Chief Richard stated that his officers had issued a few more citations during April 2007. Chief Richard stated that his department had increased surveillance on River Road and that approximately the same amount of citations was issued in 2007 as in 2006. He summarized the citations that were issued in the month. Councilman Lombardo asked if any of the citations that were issued on River Road were issued to trucks. Chief Richard stated that they were not issued to trucks. Mayor Ratcliff asked if the increased police presence on River Road made a difference in the citations issued. Chief Richard stated that it is working and that most of the citations that are written are to residents of River Road. After no comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on the next item on the agenda.

Fire Chief Francis Fromenthal presented the fire report for the month and stated that there were no fire calls for the month of April 2007. Training of the personnel is continuing. After no further comments, the mayor moved to the next item on the agenda.

Public Works report was the next item on the agenda. A copy of this report was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting. Town Superintendent Allen Benoit stated that the town should consider replacing the odorant system for the town gas system. He would supply prices for the 2007-08 budget. River Road water tower is back in service and is excellent shape. A new water line with back flow prevention was installed on Berwick South Road (Thorguson Drive) for the new dirt bike track that is under construction. A new gas main on River Road, outside of the Berwick town limits, has been installed and is ready for customers to be connected. Mr. Benoit stated that funding has been secured through a state grant for rehabbing the 3rd and 4th street sewer system. After no further comments, the mayor moved on the next item on the agenda.

The mayor then moved on to committee reports. The first report was from Planning and Zoning director Gary Beadle. He stated that he did not have a report, but he had received a couple of plans for review. Councilwoman Penny Crappell stated that the Anti-Litter committee did not have a report for April, but did say that the Centennial Committee had met with some of the town's senior citizens

gathering information for the centennial celebration. Berwick Junior High is preparing history boards that will be on display at the centennial celebration. Berwick Elementary is having a Louisiana Festival on May 11, 2007 from 12:30 to 2:30. The mayor and council are invited to attend. The Centennial Committee will have a booth at the festival called Berwick's Birthday. Next report was from the Economic Development Committee. Damon Robison, Louis Ratcliff and Allen Benoit met with Bill Fontenot concerning the turning lane at Highway 90 and Thorguson Drive. The main problem was the state plans so far in advance that if the turning lane was approved it would be several years before it could be installed. Mr. Fontenot stated that typically the developer would install the turning lane. Troy Lombardo gave the Recreation Committee report for the month. He stated that the committee met on April 24. Items discussed were purchase of land behind the civic center, possible hiring of a full time recreation director and other uses for Pharr Park. Duval Arthur sent out a form to gather information for recreation needs for the town.

Consulting Engineer Glen Miller gave the report for April. The only item he was working on was additional right-of-way on Fairview Drive. He is preparing a preliminary report that will be given to land owners in the area. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Item # 1 on the agenda – St. Mary Council on Aging – Beverly Demengeaux addressed the council stating that May had been declared Senior Citizen month. She applauded the council on the Berwick Centennial Celebration and stressed that the Council on Aging would assist in any way possible. The theme for the month was making choices for a healthier future. She stated that Berwick had 588 seniors but that they were only able to serve 58. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the item on the agenda.

Item # 2 on the agenda – Proclamation – Teacher Appreciation Week. Mayor Ratcliff stated that the mayors signed the proclamation last week.

Item # 3 on the agenda - St. Mary Genealogical & Historical Society. Neil Willett spoke to the Mayor and Council and presented the 1st copy of the St. Mary Six Cemetery complete inventory.

Item # 4 on the agenda – Discuss Phase III Renwick Subdivision – Damon Robison proposed developing an area west of Renwick Boulevard that would have 21 lots with a square foot requirement of 1,700. He stated that the Development District had adequate funds to proceed with the project based on preliminary estimates. An additional 5 lots would be created if Oakland Drive was tied into Shadowlawn Drive. Mayor Ratcliff asked Town Attorney, Allen McElroy, to speak with bonding attorney, Jerry Osborne, about interest rates and possible funding ideas. McElroy stated that he could have an answer by next week. Realtor Carroll Thorguson stated that he felt that there was a need for additional lots.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk