



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

May 13, 2008

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 8, 2008

Treasurer's Report

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Introduce Ordinance No. 580 – Changes to Code of Ordinances relating to Subdivision Regulations**
- 2. Introduce Ordinance No. 581 – Acquire real property at Berwick Civic Complex**
- 3. Introduce Ordinance No. 582 – Re-enacting and adopting Article III. Vicious Dogs of Chapter 4**
- 4. Introduce Ordinance No. 583 – Repeal Chapter 17.25, “Subdivision Regulations”**
- 5. Proclamation 5-08 – Alcohol and Other Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness Week**
- 6. Resolution No. 10-08 – Opposing legislation restricting revenue generated from traffic violations**
- 7. Discuss Volunteer Firemen Insurance Proposal**
- 8. Approve Payment No. 2 to Sampey General Contractors - \$219,262.**
- 9. Albert Vaughn – Discuss junk cars**
- 10. Nicky Pecoraro – Tri City Track Club**

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk
Town of Berwick
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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 13, 2008

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, 2008 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

There were present: Council members, Edgar Thomas, Duval Arthur, Penny Crappell and Troy Lombardo.

Absent: Damon Robison

Also present were representatives of The Daily Review.

Councilman Duval Arthur 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, having been reviewed, 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 Edgar Thomas.

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, 2008. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for March, 2008 were a lot less than April, 2007. Chief Richard also compared citations and arrests for 2008 to 2007. Chief Richard informed the Mayor and Council that Berwick police officer Reed Gros had been named Officer of the Year by the Marine Corp League. Chief Richard read a statement of accomplishments for Officer Gros. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, Fire Department report.

Fire Chief Francis Fromenthal presented the fire report for April. Chief Fromenthal stated that the department worked 4 vehicle accidents, 2 mutual aid calls, 1 trash fire, 3 good intent calls, 1 gas leak, 3 false alarms and 1 electrical call. After no comment, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

A copy of the Public Works Report was included in the packet for each Councilman. Town Superintendent Allen Benoit was available for comment. Mr. Benoit stated that work on the refurbishment of the wharf near the Lighthouse Park is 100% complete. The dock has been underwater for a couple of weeks and town crews will begin the cleaning process as soon as the water recedes. The water has receded enough to reopen the Canton Street flood gate. Other gates will be opened within the next week. Sewer service has been restored to the businesses on the river side of the seawall. The Corp of Engineers has projected that the high water event for 2008 has past and the river should return to normal levels. Town Recreation Department crews have prepared the playground area at Pharr Park to receive the rubberized surface. Installation should begin within the next week. Councilwoman Crappell commended Mr. Benoit and Chief Richard for their help during the high water. Mr. Benoit went over a list of cost saving measures by his departments. Through the efforts of him and his men, Mr. Benoit estimated that he had saved the town over \$200,000. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer, Miller Engineers & Associates, represented by Glen Miller, stated that the contractor for Phase III of Renwick Subdivision has completed installation of sewer, water and sub-surface drainage and has begun excavation for the streets. The contractor is ahead of schedule. Contractor pay request No. 2 has been submitted in the amount of \$219,262.02. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, pay request No. 2 was approved unanimously.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning met and unanimously approved the new subdivision regulations for the Town of Berwick. Consultant Leesa Foreman also stated that pipeline right of way regulations should be moved from subdivision regulations to building codes. Councilwoman Penny Crappell reported that the Economic Development Committee did not meet and did not have a report for the council. Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur did not have a report but expressed his thanks to the town crews for their efforts in preparing the playground areas for the installation of the new surface. He also stated that baseball games were being played at Pharr Park. The Whitworth Street Parking Committee report was presented by Duval Arthur. It was the committee's opinion that they would send out a questionnaire to the residents of Crenshaw Street and Whitworth Street to gather their opinions on the no-parking ordinance. The committee will report back to the council at the June 10th meeting. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 580 – Changes to Code of Ordinances relating to Subdivision Regulations. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 581 – Acquire real property at the Berwick Civic Complex. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 582 – Re-enacting and adopting Article III, Vicious Dogs of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances, being sections 4-51 through 4-59. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 583 – Amend Chapter 5, “Buildings and Structures” of the Town of Berwick Code of Ordinances so as to enact provisions under a new article titled, “Article IV, Pipelines.” Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Proclamation – 5-08. Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed the week of May 11 through May 17, 2008 as Alcohol and Other Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

Item #6 on the agenda – Resolution – Opposing legislation restriction revenue generated from traffic violations. The mayor and council declined to support the resolution.

Item #7 on the agenda – Discuss Volunteer Firemen Insurance Proposal. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell the council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the insurance subject to VFIS signing waiver of subrogation for the Town of Berwick and its insurer, Risk Management.

Item #8 on the agenda – Approve payment No. 2 to Sampey General Contractors for Phase III of Renwick subdivision in the amount of \$219,262.02. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the payment was approved unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda – Albert Vaughn – Discuss junk cars. Mr. Vaughn did not attend the meeting.

Item #10 on the agenda – Nicky Pecoraro – Tri City Track Club. Ms. Pecoraro addressed the Mayor and Council seeking permission to hold a 2 mile road race on July 18, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. The route of the race will be from a starting point at the Lighthouse Park on Belleview-Front Street. The race will continue down Belleview-Front Street to Gus Street, left on Gus to Pharr Street, a right on Pharr to Gilmore Street, a left on Gilmore to the rear of Bobby Monceaux's house. The race will then return to the Lighthouse Park on the same route. Refreshments will be available to the racers at the conclusion of the race. Alcoholic beverages will be served. Ms. Pecoraro was advised that a police officer will have to present. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the motion to grant a race permit was approved unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk