



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 12, 2009**

**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 14, 2009**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Tim Cheramie, 218 Jones Street – bulk trash pickup(wants to change pickup from Friday to Monday), noise from Civic Center**
- 2. Introduce Ordinance No. 603 – Cable Franchise Agreement – Allen's TV Cable, Inc.**

**Adjournment**

**Newell W. 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, 2009**

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, 2009 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

Also present was a representative of 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, 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 Penny Crappell.

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, 2009. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for April 2009 were a little higher than 2008. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for April 2009 were less than April 2008. Chief Richard read a letter he had written to the Marine Corp League praising Berwick Police Officer Ricky Dinger for his selection as Berwick Officer of the Year. Officer Dinger was instrumental in solving two cases during the past months. Chief Richard also stated that Officer Dinger would be trained as Berwick's new Dare Officer. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, Fire Department report.

The fire report was included in the packet for the Mayor and Council. There were seven fire calls for the month of April with four being false alarms. Mayor Ratcliff also introduced Berwick's new Fire Chief, Wayne LaCoste. Chief LaCoste was elected at the business meeting of the Berwick Volunteer Fire Department on April 11, 2009. Mayor Pro Tem Duval Arthur made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for the appointment of Wayne LaCoste as Berwick Fire Chief. Penny Crappell seconded the motion. Councilman Troy Lombardo made a motion to appointment Wayne LaCoste as Berwick Fire Chief. Duval Arthur seconded the motion. Chief LaCoste's appointment was unanimous. After no further comments, 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. Curb repair has begun in the old part of town and will progress to the rest of the town. Curbing around the elementary school will begin when school lets out for the summer. Atchafalaya River stage predictions look good for the town in the upcoming weeks. Gate closures are not anticipated. The paving of Belleview/Front Street has begun and is ahead of schedule and will be completed in about two weeks. The completion of this project will facilitate not having to close the gates at Canton Street and Utah Streets during the spring high water periods. Phase II of the Belleview/Front Street project will include paving from Utah Street to Pacific Street. The rewiring of the Pony League field has been completed. There are several lights and ballasts that will have to be changed. Mr. Benoit has arranged for Cleco to finish the job. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, is working on updating the zoning ordinances for the town. The board discussed items in B3, M1 and M2 districts. Some changes have been proposed for B3 concerning residential structures. The changes should be ready for council approval in August or September. Councilman Damon Robison asked the committee if it was considering changing zone usages or changing zones. Mr. Beadle said that only zone usages were being considered. Councilwoman Penny Crappell said that the Keep St. Mary Beautiful Committee has received two more grants. One for \$2,500 for a radio campaign to bring up public awareness for litter another \$1,500 grant for cigarette litter. Their goal is to reduce cigarette butts in the Parish. Mrs. Rhonda Burtner presented the Recreation Committee report for April. The merry-go-round and the Aztec Climber were re-installed to manufacturer standards and are ready for the public. The committee has postponed their meeting to April 27. The new support system for the volleyball nets has been installed and is ready for league play. The Economic Development and Blighted Property committees did not meet. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Tim Cheramie – Bulk trash pickup and loud music from the Civic Center. Mr. Cheramie asked if the town would consider changing the pickup date from Fridays to Monday. He stated that most residents clean their property on the weekends and if the trash is left out on the curb all week it tends to be scattered about before the Friday pickup. Mayor Ratcliff stated that he would look into the matter with public works superintendant Allen Benoit. Mr. Cheramie complained of loud music emanating from the Civic Center. Mr. Cheramie asked if the town could ask citizens and companies that rent the Civic Center to keep the music at an acceptable level. Mayor Ratcliff said he would look into the matter.

Item #2 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 603 – Allen’s TV Cable Franchise Agreement. Town Attorney Allen McElroy stated that he had been working with Greg Price with Allen’s TV Cable, Inc. on the new franchise agreement. Mr. McElroy stated that the only real changes were that the franchise fee payable to the town was increased from 4% to 5%. Also, the term of the agreement was increased to 15 years. Language was added to the contract stating that if new services become available through Allen’s TV Cable those new services would be subject to the franchise fee. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously. Mr. McElroy stated that it was his intention to send the same contract to AT&T and introduce the ordinance at the June 9, 2009 council meeting.

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

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Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk