



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 14, 2013**

**Date of Notice: May 7, 2013**

**A Public hearing will be held as follows:**

**Date: May 14, 2013**  
**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 9, 2013**

**Treasurer's Report**

**The Beacon Shines on...**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 643 – Set Millage Rates for 2013**
- 2. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 644 – Set Drainage Fee for 2013**
- 3. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 645 – Amend Water & Gas Meter Repairs Cost**
- 4. Adopt Ordinance No. 643 – Set Millage Rates for 2013**
- 5. Adopt Ordinance No. 644 – Set Drainage Fee for 2013**
- 6. Adopt Ordinance No. 645 – Amend Water & Gas Meter Repairs Cost**
- 7. Consider approval of new playground equipment at Civic Center & Renwick**
- 8. Mayor Call Special Meeting For Final Approval for Phase V of Renwick Subdivision**
- 9. Appoint Sandra Watson to Berwick Development District**
- 10. Adopt Resolution No. 06-13 – Resolution of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana**
- 11. Resolution of Respect – Carroll Thorguson**

**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 14, 2013**

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 14, 2013, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

Also present were representatives of KWBJ, and The Daily-Review.

Councilman Greg Roussel 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 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 Troy Lombardo.

The Beacon Shines on Allen Benoit for May, 2013. Mr. Benoit is retiring after 21 years of service to the Town of Berwick. Mr. Benoit was presented by Mayor Ratcliff. Mayor Ratcliff thanked Allen for his years of service and all of his help in making the Town of Berwick's public works department one of the best in the state.

Guests: Beverly Demengeaux with the St. Mary Council on Aging addressed the mayor and council and thanked them for their past support and asked that they continue to support the Council on Aging. Jacki Ackel addressed the mayor and council and stated that her next project would to begin preparation for the Tour du Teche, which will be held on Sunday, October 6.

Police Chief James Richard was unavailable for the meeting and did not present a report for May. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the fire report.

Assistant Chief Jodie Acosta presented the fire report for April. He reported 15 calls for the month. The department responded to 11 medical assists, 1 fire call and 3 automobile accidents. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

Town Superintendent Rafael Lopez presented the Public Works report. Town crews are working on clearing drainage canals, ditches and completing other projects. The mayor and council thanked Mr. Lopez for the great effort of the town crews during the rain event on May 10. After a brief discussion on the 6+ inch rain fall of May 10<sup>th</sup> and the drainage system performed, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer Reid Miller stated the contractor has finished the punch list for Phase V of Renwick. He stated that he is waiting to receive a clear lien certificate. Once received, the retainage will be paid. He stated that Cleco has finished installing their electrical conduit and transformers and his crews have marked the lot corners. Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle stated that the Planning & Zoning Board will hold a public meeting on May 22, 2013. After receiving input from the public, the board will recommend final approval of the subdivision to the council. The mayor and council will hold a special meeting on May 23, 2013 to receive, consider and take action on the recommendation from Planning & Zoning Board for Phase V of Renwick Subdivision. All councilmen have been provided notice of the scheduled meeting. Councilman

Lombardo stated that the Recreation Committee recommends Bliss Products as the vendor to provide new playground equipment for the Civic Center. Bliss provided a low bid of \$40,688.27. See agenda item #7 below for more explanation of the recreation equipment purchase. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 643 – Set Millage Rates for 2013. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 644 – Set Drainage Fee for 2013. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 645 – Amend Water & Gas meter repair cost. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #4 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 643 – Set Millage Rates for 2013. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #5 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 644 – Set Drainage Fee for 2013. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #6 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 645 – Amend water and gas meter repair cost. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Greg Roussel, the ordinance was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #7 on the agenda – Consider approval of new playground equipment at the Civic Center. It is hoped that the equipment will be funded this fiscal year, but if funds are not available, the item will be placed in the budget for fiscal year 2013-14. It was decided that the purchase would be brought up at a subsequent meeting for approval. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Greg Roussel, the agenda was expanded to consider a matching grant to the Renwick HOA for \$5,000. After much discussion, Duval Arthur made a motion to approve the matching grant. Damon Robison seconded the motion. The grant was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #8 on the agenda – Mayor Calls Special Meeting for Final Approval for Phase V of Renwick Subdivision. Mayor Ratcliff stated that a special meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. to receive, consider and take action on recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board for Phase V of Renwick Subdivision.

Item # 9 on the agenda – Appoint Sandra Watson to the Berwick Development District Board. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Edgar Thomas the appointment was approved unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda – Adopt Resolution No. 06-13 – A resolution supporting the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana opposing the increase in premiums for National Flood Insurance. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Resolution of Respect for Carroll Thorguson. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution was approved unanimously.

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

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Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk