



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

June 11, 2013

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: May 14, 2013

Treasurer's Report

The Beacon Shines on...

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Name The Daily Review as Official Journal**
- 2. Set budget workshop for July 16th & July 23 (if needed) at 6:00 PM**
- 3. Approve partial payment No. 9 to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC for \$56,699.63 (retainage)**
- 4. Approve payment to Miller Engineers for \$9,835.02**
- 5. Authorize Mayor Ratcliff to sign agreement naming St. Mary Levee District as agent**
- 6. Discuss repairs/replacement of the Highway 182 bridge**
- 7. Tri-City Track Club – Parade Permit – July 6, 2013 @ 7:00 AM**

Adjournment

Newell Slaughter, Town Clerk

Town of Berwick

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Berwick, Louisiana 70342

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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**

June 11, 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, June 11, 2013, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: Duval Arthur

Also present were representatives 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 Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo.

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

Guests: Bill Hidalgo & Tim Matte with the St. Mary Parish Levee District.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of May, 2013. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for May, 2013, were about the same amount written in May 2012. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for May, 2013, were also about the same amount written in May, 2012. 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 May. He reported 10 calls for the month. The department responded to 6 medical assists, 3 fire calls and 1 automobile accident. 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 June 9. After a brief discussion on the 5+ inches rain fall of June 9th and the flooding of some homes on Jones, Hebert, and Hogan Streets, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle stated that the Planning & Zoning Board did not have a meeting, but deposits have been received on 22 lots in Phase V of Renwick Subdivision. Councilman Lombardo stated that the Recreation Committee will meet on June 12 and that they are looking at improvements to Willie Steward Park. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item #1 on the agenda – Name the Daily Review as Official Journal. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Greg Roussel, the motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 on the agenda – Set Budget Workshop for July 16th & July 23rd (if needed). Mayor Ratcliff set July 16 and July 23 as dates for full council budget workshops.

Item #3 on the agenda – Approve partial payment No. 9 to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC. for \$56,699.63 (retainage). Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Damon Robison, the payment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #4 on the agenda – Approve payment to Miller Engineers for \$9,835.02. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the payment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item #5 on the agenda – Authorize Mayor Ratcliff to sign an agreement naming St. Mary Levee District as agent for negotiations with the Corp of Engineers.

Item #6 on the agenda – Discuss repairs/replacement of Highway 182 Bridge. Town Attorney, Allen McElroy, stated that since the bridge is of utmost importance as hurricane evacuation route and as an alternate route for citizens to cross the Atchafalaya River, the town should consider contacting Representative Sam Jones and Senator Bret Allain, concerning repairs/replacement of the Highway 182 Bridge. Mayor Ratcliff stated that plans are in progress to have the bridge included in the record of historic places. This designation should improve the probabilities of the bridge being preserved and maintained for future generations to use for years to come.

Item #7 on the agenda – Tri-City Track Club – Parade Permit – July 6, 2013 @ 7:00 A.M. Upon motion by Greg Roussel and seconded by Damon Robison, the permit was approved unanimously.

Mayor Ratcliff opened the floor for residents of Country Club Subdivision to air their concerns regarding the recent flooding of homes on Jones, Hebert, Palmer, Snead and Hogan Streets. Stan Beaubouef was the first resident to speak and he stated that he had been living in his home for 32 years and that he had never experienced flooding, but in the last three years his home had received water three times. He feels that something had changed in the drainage system to cause this flooding. A.J. and Christy Pitre, Brandy Smith, Bernie Dinger and Brian Thorguson of Hogan Street all experienced flooding from the rear of their homes. They feel that the water from St. Mary Country Club is flooding their homes. Brian Thorguson stated that the recent improvements to the drainage system on the golf course had contributed to their flooding. John and Amanda Eues who live at 215 Hogan experienced flooding from the front of their home. They also think that the improvements to the drainage at the golf course contributed to their flooding. Steve Clements received water into the front of his apartments that he owns on Jones Street. Ralph Guidry, who lives at 498 Whitworth Street, thinks that Wax Lake East Drainage District needs to clear drainage ditches behind the landfill to increase water flow during rain events. Mayor Ratcliff stated that the town is working with Miller Engineers to find a solution to the problem.

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

Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk