



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**July 10, 2012**

**Date of Notice: July 3, 2012**

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

**Date: July 10, 2012**  
**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, Penny Crappell, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison, Edgar Thomas**

**Minutes from last meeting: June 12, 2012**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 634 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate for 2012**
- 2. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 635 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate and Increased Millage Rate for 2012**
- 3. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 636 – Set Drainage Fee for 2012**
- 4. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 637 - Authorizing partial release of servitude with Berwick LLC concerning property on Highway 182**
- 5. Adopt Ordinance No. 634 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate for 2012**
- 6. Adopt Ordinance No. 635 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate and Increased Millage Rate for 2012**
- 7. Adopt Ordinance No. 636 – Set Drainage Fee for 2012**
- 8. Adopt Ordinance No. 637 - Authorizing partial release of servitude with Berwick LLC concerning property on Highway 182**
- 9. Approve payment request No. 1 – LA Contracting Enterprise - \$124,599.15**
- 10. Approve payment request No. 3 – Miller Engineers - \$6,229.96**
- 11. Mike Hefner - Redistricting**

**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**

**July 10, 2012**

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, July 10, 2012, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Councilwoman Penny Crappell led the prayer.

Councilman Troy Lombardo 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 Penny Crappell.

Guests: Beverly Demengeaux with St. Mary Council on Aging, Rick Dugas with the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration and the Honorable Logan Fromenthal of the St. Mary Parish Council.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of June, 2012. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for June, 2012, were about the same amount written in June 2011. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for June, 2012, were about the same as the amount written in June, 2011. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the fire report.

Chief Allen Rink presented the fire report for June, 2012. There were ten calls for the month; two were mutual aid calls from Morgan City, three were auto accidents, one house fire, two false alarm calls and two medical calls. Mayor Ratcliff commended Chief Rink and his men for the manner in which they responded to the fire of the apartments on Trevino Street. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

Town Superintendent Allen Benoit presented the Public Works report. Mr. Benoit stated that work on gas line on Oregon Street was approximately 80% complete. Slip lining of the deep sewer lines on Sixth Street and Lima Street has been completed. The break on the 12" water line on Thorguson Road has been repaired. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Town Engineer Reed Miller stated that the contractor is currently working on the sewer and storm drainage systems. The sewer is approximately 80% complete and the storm drainage is approximately 75% complete. The contractor is on schedule for completion as planned. Councilwoman Crappell stated that the local Dixie Youth baseball teams have been successful in post season play and some will advance to the state and regional tournaments. 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. 634 – Set Forth Millage Rates for 2012. Mayor Ratcliff opened the public hearing and after no comments from the audience or council the public hearing was closed.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 635 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate and Increased Millage Rate for 2012. Mayor Ratcliff opened the public hearing and after no comments from the audience or council the public hearing was closed.

Item #3 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 636 – Set Forth Drainage Fee for 2012. Mayor Ratcliff opened the public hearing and after no comments from the audience or council the public hearing was closed.

Item #4 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 637 – Authorizing partial release of servitude with Berwick LLC concerning property on Highway 182. Mayor Ratcliff opened the public hearing and after no comments from the audience or council the public hearing was closed.

Item #5 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 634 – Set Forth Millage Rates for 2012. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

Item #6 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 635 – Set Forth Adjusted Millage Rate and Increased Millage Rate for 2012. Councilman Robison asked Beverly Demengeaux, with the St. Mary Parish Council on Aging, if the elderly in St. Mary Parish were taking advantage of the option to have their home assessments frozen at current levels and she assured him that they were. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

Item #7 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 636 – Set Drainage Fee for 2012. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance was adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

Item #8 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 637 – Authorizing partial release of servitude with Berwick LLC concerning property on Highway 182. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

Item #9 on the agenda – Approve payment request No. 1 - La Contracting Enterprise, LLC - \$124,559.15. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Penny Crappell, the payment was approved unanimously.

Item # 10 on the agenda – Approve payment request No. 3 – Miller Engineers - \$6,229.96. Upon motion by Edgar Thomas and seconded by Penny Crappell, the payment was approved unanimously.

Item # 11 on the agenda – Mike Hefner – Redistricting. Mike Hefner, a Lafayette Demographer, addressed the mayor and council and stated the current system on electing all at-large members to the town council was legal and was practiced by many cities and towns across Louisiana and the country, regardless of the population. He cited a US Supreme court decision, City of Mobile vs. Bolden in the 1980's, as proof that the Town of Berwick's does not have to go to single member districts to satisfy a minority interest or a protected class of citizens. The town could, if they decided to, go to single member districts. Such a change would have to be approved by the voters of the town. After studying the demographics for the town, the largest African American district population would only be 25%. Councilman Robison asked Mr. Hefner if economic or level of income could be taken into consideration when considering single member districts. Mr. Hefner stated that race, creed, economic status or income level does not have to be considered when forming single member districts.

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

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Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

