



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

August 14, 2007

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: July 10, 2007
Treasurer's Report
Police Report
Fire Report
Public Works Report
Committee Reports
Consulting Engineers Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ralph Guidry – use of ball fields
2. Request bids on 2008 Sewer Jet Truck
3. Introduce Ordinance No. 568 – Amend 2006-07 Budget
4. Introduce Ordinance No. 569 – Introduce 2007-08 Budget
5. Introduce Ordinance No. 570 – Enact new sub-section in Chapter 5 ICC
6. Tyrone Brady – cat problem on Hebert Street

Adjournment

Newell W. Slaughter, Town Clerk
Town of Berwick
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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**

August 14, 2007

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, August 14, 2007 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 were representatives of KQKI, The Daily Review, and Channel 39.

Councilman Damon Robison led the prayer.

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 July 2007. Chief Richard stated that the report for July 2007 was very similar to July 2006. He summarized the accidents and citations that were issued in the month. After no comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on the next item on the agenda, Fire Department report.

Assistant Fire Chief Heath Landry presented the fire report for July. There were 10 calls for the month; with three being working fires, only one in Berwick. They did respond to mutual aid calls from Patterson and Franklin. Assistant Chief Landry wanted to remind everyone that the annual Shrimp Gumbo was scheduled for September 1 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from the volunteers and at the Central Fire Station. After no further comments, the mayor moved to the next item on the agenda, the Public Works report.

A copy of the Public Works Report was included in the packet each Councilman received prior to the meeting. Town Superintendent Allen Benoit was available for comment. Mr. Benoit stated that the State DOT was installing cameras at the Highway 90 and Thorguson intersection to enhance the changing of the light signals. They will replace the old wires that are embedded in the road base. The Utah Street pumping station is back on line after a log had jammed the port pump. The town is awaiting a final report from the town engineer on the status of the West End Ditch. After the report is received, the committee formed to study the problems with the ditch will meet and seek solutions to the problems set forth by the concerned citizens along Nicklaus Street. The water main that is being installed on the west end of town is 95% complete with the expectation of it being tapped into the existing line on Old Spanish Trail on August 15. If the tap is successful, the project should be 100% complete within the next two weeks. A gas line will be installed along side of the water line at a later date. The new Skid Steer Loader has been received and the employees have been trained and it will be in operation this week. The engineering and design for the sewer rehabilitation project along Third and Fourths streets has been completed and bid requests have been mailed to four prospective bidders. Mayor Ratcliff commended Mr. Benoit and his men for receiving the 2007 Energy Conservation System of the Year from the Louisiana Rural Water Association. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

The first committee report was from Planning and Zoning director Gary Beadle. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Board met and recommends that the Council grant preliminary, engineering and final approval for an addendum to Country Club Estates Subdivision known as the Pipeline Right of Way. Mayor Ratcliff stated that he would expand the agenda to act upon the recommendation of the Board. Councilwoman Penny Crappell stated that the Anti-Litter committee did not have a report for July, but did say that the Centennial Committee had started their preparation for the town picnic that will be held on October 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Next report was from the Economic Development Committee. Damon Robison stated that he did not have a report for the month. Duval Arthur did not have a Recreation Committee report for the month, but he did appoint Colleen Askew as a new member to the recreation committee. He stated that a recreation committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 21 at 6:00 P.M. Consulting Engineer Glen Miller presented a copy of the plan for Phase III of Renwick Subdivision. The Berwick Development District will meet on Tuesday, August 21 to consider the Phase III of Renwick. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item # 1 on the agenda – Ralph Guidry – use of ball fields at Berwick Civic Center. He would like to see the council use the assets of the Town to upgrade the recreational facilities in Berwick. He also would like to address an incident that occurred on one of the girls softball fields. His son and some other boys were asked to leave the field by one of the town employees and he feels like they should have access to the fields. Mayor Ratcliff stated that the town is negotiating with Whitney Bank to purchase the property behind the Civic Center. Mayor Ratcliff and Councilman Arthur added that the Town has always maintained that the Pharr Park fields and the Civic Center softball fields are maintained for league use only and unsupervised youths should not be allowed to use the fields. Mr. Guidry also stated that are federal grants available to rural towns, such as Berwick, that go unused each year. He would like to see Berwick apply for some of these grants. Mayor Ratcliff stated that he had met with a potential grant writer for the Town. A decision on the selection of a grant writer for the Town of Berwick would be made at a later date. Mayor Ratcliff stressed that it would helpful for the citizens of Berwick to attend the scheduled meetings for the Recreation Committee to voice their concerns and suggestions for the recreations programs for their children.

Item # 2 on the agenda – Request for bids for 2008 Sewer Jet Truck – Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the request for bids was approved unanimously.

Item # 3 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 568 – Amend 2006-07 Budget. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item # 4 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 569 – Introduce 2007-08 Budget. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item # 5 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 570 – Enact new sub-section in Chapter ICC. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item # 6 on the agenda – Tyrone Brady – stray cat problem on Hebert Street. Mr. Brady addressed the mayor and council and asked for assistance with the stray cat problem he is having at his residence on Hebert Street. Mayor Ratcliff asked Police Chief James Richard to look into the problem and assist Mr. Brady in solving the problem.

Item #7 on the agenda – Expand Agenda to approve Planning and Zoning Board recommendation to approve preliminary, engineering and final approval to an addendum to Country Club Estates. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the motion to expand the agenda was approved unanimously.

Item # 8 on the agenda – Approve Planning and Zoning Board recommendation. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Board to grant preliminary, engineering and final approval to an addendum to Country Club Estates was approved unanimously.

Item # 9 on the agenda – Proclamation – Shrimp and Petroleum Festival T-shirt Day will be August 31, 2007.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk