



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

August 11, 2009

Date of Notice: August 4, 2009

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: August 11, 2009
Time: 7:15 P.M.
Place: Council Meeting Room
3225 Third Street
Berwick, LA 70342

AGENDA:

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: July 14, 2009
Treasurer's Report
Guests:
Police Report
Fire Report
Public Works Report
Consulting Engineers Report
Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 606 – Amend Chapter 3, Section 3-11 and Section 3-12 clarify distance measurement
2. 7:15 P.M. – Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant – Angela Kraemer, Firmin Arch.
3. Adopt Ordinance No. 606 - Amend Chapter 3, Section 3-11 and Section 3-12 clarify distance measurement
4. Proclamation No. 9-09 – National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
5. Introduce Ordinance 607 – Amend 2008-09 Budget
6. Introduce Ordinance 608 – Introduce 2009-10 Budget
7. St. Mary Parish Wellness Committee/Angie Jensen – 5K Run/Walk – September 26, 2009 @ 9:00 A.M.
8. Boy Scouts – Request to block street and under bridge for soap box derby – Sunday, August 16, 2009
9. St. Mary Council on Aging – Beverly Demengeaux
10. Approve Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement with Harbor District for wharf improvements
11. Joe Woods – Motorcycle Run – Shrimp and Petroleum Festival Weekend – To benefit Shriner's Children Hospital - 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., Saturday, September 5, 2009 – Charlene's Roadhouse, live music from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (outside) over 700 bikes expected to participate

Adjournment

Newell W. 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 W. 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**

August 11, 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, August 11, 2009 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

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.

Mayor Ratcliff began the meeting asking for a moment of silence in honor of Gerry Guidry who passed away this week. Mrs. Guidry was the wife of former mayor Ralph Guidry, Sr. and the mother of former councilman Ralph Guidry, Jr.

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.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of July, 2009. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for July 2009 were higher than July 2008. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for July 2009 were lower than July 2008. 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 presented by Chief Wayne LaCoste. There were three calls for July. September 5, 2009, has been set as the date for annual Shrimp Gumbo fund raiser. Members will be selling tickets door to door on Monday, August 17, 2009 and Wednesday, August 19, 2009. 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. Curb repair is 100% complete and town crews were now working on repairing sidewalks. Louisiana Rural Water Association will be begin testing for water leaks on Monday, August 17, 2009. Town crews will demonstrate how they open and close seawall gates for the Army Corp of Engineers on August 12 & 13, 2009. The Corp is currently conducting a walking tour of the levees in the Town of Berwick and the surrounding area. After no further comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

With a request from Mayor Ratcliff, Consulting Engineer Glen Miller has begun the preliminary investigations of the additions to the sanitary sewer system along Old Spanish Trail and Highway 182. It should be completed within sixty days. Gary Beadle, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that consultant Leesa Foreman had the packets with the revisions to the zoning ordinances ready for review and they were distributed to the mayor and council and Town Attorney Allen McElroy. An ordinance will be introduced on September 8, 2009 and a public hearing will be called for October 13, 2009. Councilwoman Crappell stated that the Anti-litter Committee has started a radio advertising campaign on KQKI and The Breeze and they have installed several anti-litter outdoor signs in St. Mary Parish, with one being in Berwick. The St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department has started a litter pickup campaign.

They were in Berwick on Highway 90 on August 11. 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. 606 – Amend Chapter 3, Section 3-11 and Section 3-12 to clarify distance measurement for alcohol sales in bars and lounges. Kevin Simmons of 3913 Mount Street addressed the mayor and council and thanked them for their efforts in introducing and enacting this ordinance. After no further comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant. Angela Kraemer with Firmin Architects discussed the options and the types of grants available to the town. In the past, the town could only apply one grant at a time. The state now allows the application for a public facility grant as well as a housing grant. The Town currently has a housing rehabilitation/new build grant in progress. There is a new type of grant called a physical accessibility grant which can be applied town wide, unlike the housing grants which are confined to a specific area of the town. These grants are used to make homes handicap accessible, such as constructing ramps and converting bathrooms to handicap accessible bathrooms. Other grants that can be applied are for: sewer treatment, water system rehabilitation, community centers and street grants. The town is interested in applying for a street grant. The target area for the grant must have low to moderate income levels. Mayor Ratcliff asked Ms. Kraemer to meet with Town Superintendent Allen Benoit to discuss target areas. After no further comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 606 – Amend Chapter 3, Section 3-11 and Section 3-12 to clarify distance measurement for alcohol sales in bars and lounges. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 9-09 – National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Mayor Ratcliff declared September, 2009 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the Town of Berwick.

Item #5 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 607 – Amend 2008-09 Consolidated Budget. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 608 – Introduce the 2009-10 Consolidated Budget. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda – St. Mary Parish Wellness Committee/Angie Jensen. Ms Jensen did not attend the meeting and the item will be added to the agenda for the September 8, 2009 council meeting.

Item #8 on the agenda – Boy Scouts - Request to block street and the area under the bridge for a soap box derby. Mayor Ratcliff granted permission for the Boy Scout activity.

Item #9 on the agenda – St. Mary Council on Aging-Beverly Domengeaux. Mrs. Domengeaux addressed the mayor and council and thanked them for their support. The Council on Aging is currently serving 42 senior citizens in the Town of Berwick. The Council on Aging is starting a sponsor a senior campaign. She is hoping for corporate sponsors as well as individual sponsors. With home help services being reduced on a national level, she is hoping that this sponsor program will help fill the gap in service. The Council on Aging is the only organization that delivers meal to homebound citizens in St. Mary Parish. The council currently delivers meals six days a week, with the hope to deliver seven days a week with this new sponsor program. Accompanying Mrs. Domengeaux was Cathy Broussard, who is Vice-Chairman of the council.

Item #10 on the agenda – Approve Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement with the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the resolution and intergovernmental agreement were approved unanimously. The resolution and intergovernmental agreement were part of the process for the Town of Berwick to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Harbor and Terminal District for improvements to town docks on the Atchafalaya River.

Item #11 on the agenda – Joe Woods – Motorcycle Run in conjunction with the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival. Joe Woods, 721 California Street, addressed the mayor and council and told of his plans for a Motorcycle Run to benefit the Shriner’s Children’s Hospital in Shreveport. 75% of the proceeds will be given to the Shriner’s Hospital. The remaining 25% will be given to the motorcycle escorts that take children to the hospital. The event will start on Friday, September 4 with a meet and greet at Charlene’s Roadhouse from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. On Saturday, September 5, registration will begin at 8:00 A.M. Last bike is scheduled to leave for the run at 10:00 A.M. After the bikes return to Charlene’s Roadhouse, a DJ will provide music from 3:30 to 6:00 P.M. A live band will perform from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Councilman Troy Lombardo was concerned with the noise generated by an outside band. Mr. Woods said that steps will be taken to ensure that the surrounding homes will be disturbed as little as possible. 800 bikes and over 1,000 people are currently registered for the event. Security and trash pickup will be handled by Charlene’s Roadhouse. Berwick Police will also help control the crowd and traffic. Twelve portable restrooms have been secured. Due to the size of event, plans are to transfer the event to the Berwick Civic Center for the 2010 Motorcycle run. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the permit was approved unanimously.

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

Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk