



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**April 12, 2011**

**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: March 7, 2011**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Julie Vidos – St. Mary Parish Library – Property tax renewal of 5.72 mills**
- 2. Melissa Henry – Henry Family 5K Run – April 16, 2011 @ 8:30 A.M.**
- 3. Approve payment to Keep St. Mary Beautiful - \$4,954.74**
- 4. Kristina Theriot – Student of the Year.**
- 5. Resolution No. 08-11 – Louisiana Recreational Trails**
- 6. Consider Introduction of Ordinance No. 622 - Sales and construction contract with Acme Mausoleum LLC**
- 7. Substantial Completion – Renwick Phase IV**
- 8. Approve Progress Payment No. 6 to Gray Construction \$2,987.55 & Change Order No. 2 – (\$8,436.10)**
- 9. SMI – Act on recommendation from Planning and Zoning Board**
- 10. Proclamation No. 04-11 – Fair Housing Month**
- 11. Berwick Housing Authority – Payment in lieu of tax**

**Adjournment**

**Newell Slaughter, Town Clerk**

**Town of Berwick**

**P.O. Box 486**

**Berwick, Louisiana 70342**

**(985) 384-8858**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWN OF BERWICK, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY**

**April 12, 2011**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berwick, State of Louisiana, met in special session at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall, Berwick, Louisiana, Monday, April 12, 2011, 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 and KWBJ.

Councilman Edgar Thomas led the prayer.

Councilman Duval Arthur 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 Penny Crappell.

The Treasurer's report, having been reviewed, was approved without reading upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison.

Guests attending the meeting were Paul Naquin, who announced his intention to run for re-election to the office of Parish President. He also gave a brief update on the reconstruction of Thorguson Road and the replacement of the bridge on Thorguson Road. He stated that the contractor would be driving test piles within the next two weeks and after observing them for approximately two weeks construction should begin on the replacement of the bridge. Also, plans for the bridge have been altered to replace the existing bridge with a precast bridge which will result in a time saving of approximately 28 days. Also present were Parish Councilman Kevin Voisin and Allen Kelly who is the Executive Director of the St. Mary Parish Levee District. Mr. Voisin announced that he would be running for the At-Large District 11 seat and the new voting districts would be voted on at the May 11 parish council meeting. The new districts for Berwick would be drawn basically as the old districts. Mr. Kelly stated that levee inspections will begin next week. He also stated that the levee district would indorse Berwick's plan to install a walking trail on the top of the levee on Fairview Drive. A grant to fund construction of this trail is in the final stages of completion and must be submitted to the State of Louisiana by April 30.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of March, 2011. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for March, 2011 were about the same as written in March, 2010. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for March, 2011 were also about the same as March, 2010. Modifications to the dispatch area of the police department are nearing completion. To increase safety, a shield was installed to separate the dispatcher from people entering the police department. After no further comments from the council or audience, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Fire Department report.

Fire Chief Mike Touchet was present and stated that there were three fire calls for the month of March, 2011. Chief Touchet also stated that the fire department is now being dispatched by 911 and that the ratings packet has been mailed and they are waiting for the agency to arrive and conduct the ratings procedure. 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. The River Road Fire Sub-Station is complete. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 25. The clearing of the new cemetery has been completed and is ready for the construction of the new mausoleum. Construction of the new shelter and water fountain on the Pattie Drive walking trail has begun. The contractor installing a new 2" gas line on Oregon Street is 100% complete. It still must be tied in to the existing gas main and pressure tested. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Planning and Zoning Director Gary Beadle stated that Planning and Zoning Board met on April 6 and approved substantial completion for Renwick Phase IV. After the public hearing that was held on April 6, the board also approved a conditional use application for SMI. Councilwoman Crappell stated that opening ceremonies for the Berwick/Bayou Vista softball league will be held on May 5 and that the formation of a girls' volleyball league is being discussed. The league, if formed, will be run by Allison Delatte. Adult Co-Ed Volleyball will begin on April 18. Mrs. Crappell also stated that the Keep St. Mary Parish Beautiful Committee is continuing to work on funding and educating the public on anti-litter issues. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item # 1 on the agenda – Julie Vidos – St. Mary Parish Library. Ms. Vidos addressed the mayor and council and asked for their support for the renewal of their 10 year, 5.72 mil property tax on April 30. The revenue from the tax renewal will be used to continue improvements and enhancements to the library system. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, the council unanimously voiced support for the tax renewal.

Item #2 on the agenda – Melissa Henry – Henry Family 5K Run. Melissa Henry addressed the mayor and council and stated her plans to hold the annual Henry Family 5K Run. The race will be on the same route as previous years and Chief of Police James Richard has made plans to have officers on hand for the event. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the parade permit was approved unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda – Approve payment to Keep St. Mary Beautiful. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Damon Robison, the payment was approved unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Kristina Theriot – Louisiana Department of Education Elementary Student of the Year. Mayor Ratcliff presented Ms. Theriot with a proclamation honoring her as 2011 Student of the Year. Ms. Theriot is the first student from St. Mary Parish to be named Louisiana Student of the Year.

Item #5 on the agenda – Resolution No. 08-11 – Louisiana Recreational Trails. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the resolution was approved unanimously. The resolution will be part of the 2011 and 2012 application packages.

Item #6 on the agenda – Consider introduction of Ordinance No. 622 – Sales and construction contract with Acme Mausoleum, LLC. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Edgar Thomas, the ordinance was introduced unanimously. There will be a public hearing for Ordinance No. 622 on May 10, 2011.

Item #7 on the agenda – Substantial Completion – Renwick Phase IV. Town Engineer Glen Miller addressed the mayor and council and stated that Phase IV has been completed with the exception of a few minor items. Substantial completion forms will be filed with the Clerk of Court and the 45 day lien period will commence. The next step will be for Cleco to install the electrical system. Once completed, it will be brought to the planning board for final approval.

Item #8 on the agenda – Approve progress payment #6 to Gray Construction \$2,987.55 and change order No. 2 for (\$8,436.10). Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the payment and change order were approved unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda – SMI – Act on recommendation from Planning and Zoning Board. SMI applied to operate a demolition and salvage at their yard on the Atchafalaya River. The use is allowed as a conditional use and required a public hearing. The Planning and Zoning Board approved the

conditional use at their meeting that was held on April 6 and recommends that the council approve the use. The majority of the salvaged product would be barged in and out. A small portion of the product would be trucked in and out. All issues involving blasting and painting have been addressed. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the special use application was approved unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Proclamation No. 04-11 – Fair Housing Month. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Penny Crappell, Mayor Ratcliff proclaimed April as Fair Housing Month.

Item #11 on the agenda – Berwick Housing Authority – Pilot Tax. Berwick Housing Authority Director Clarence Robinson presented the Town of Berwick a check for Payment in lieu of taxes (Pilot) for 2010. Mayor Ratcliff thanked Mr. Robinson for his service to the Housing Authority.

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

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Louis Ratcliff – Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk