



**Town of Berwick**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**August 10, 2010**

**Date of Notice: August 3, 2010**

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

**Date: August 10, 2010**

**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 13, 2010**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Guests:**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Public Works Report**

**Consulting Engineers Report**

**Committee Reports**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 615 – AT&T Agreement – IP Enabled Video Service**
- 2. Adopt Ordinance No. 615 – AT&T Agreement – IP Enabled Video Service**
- 3. Introduce Ordinance No. 616 – Amend 2009-10 Consolidated Budget**
- 4. Introduce Ordinance No. 617 – Introduce 2010-11 Consolidated Budget**
- 5. Resolution No. 14-10 – Supporting Acadiana Regional Development District**

**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 10, 2010**

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 10, 2010 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.

Councilman Duval Arthur 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 Troy Lombardo.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of July, 2010. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for July, 2010 were less than July, 2009. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for July, 2010 were more than July, 2009. Chief Richard thanked the mayor and council for their support during the annual Night-Out-Against-Crime that was held on August 3. Due to a serious accident that occurred at the intersection of Highway 90 and Thorguson Road, Councilman Lombardo asked Chief Richard if he could contact the state to seek improvements at the intersection that would improve safety. State Representative Sam Jones, who was attending the meeting, stated that he would contact Bill Fontenot and request help with safety concerns at the intersection. 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 Wayne LaCoste presented his report. There were five calls, two automobile related calls and three false alarms. The annual Shrimp Gumbo fund raiser will be held on September 4, Labor Day Weekend. Tickets are on sale now. 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. Slip lining of sewer pipes around the elementary school will begin in the first week of August. The slip lining may be moved to Fifth Street because of problems relating to the opening of the elementary school. After no comments, the Mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Penny Crappell presented the Anti-Litter and Recreation Committee reports. She stated that the Pickle Ball league and co-ed volleyball league are underway. Girl's softball has concluded and registration for flag football is underway. The outdoor fitness center is nearing completion. A new swing set is set to be installed at the Civic Center in August. The Anti-Litter Committee has placed a recycling trailer at the Bayou Vista Civic Center that will accept plastic, paper and aluminum. The Saturday litter cleanup program will be at Berwick High School on August 21. The Economic Development Committee did not meet. Gary Beadle gave the Planning and Zoning report. He stated that the Berwick Development District and the Planning and Zoning board was waiting for bids for Phase IV

of Renwick Subdivision. 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. 615 – AT&T Agreement – IP enabled video Service. The first speaker was Wynn Lawrence, Vice President for AT&T Louisiana. Mr. Lawrence stated that the council had the chance to make a lasting impact on the community with the approval of the AT&T ordinance. The AT&T agreement would mean additional jobs, economic development and competitive TV prices. He stated that it would give the residents of Berwick a real choice in television content. U-verse is a 100% internet protocol based network. The next speaker was Wayne Francis who resides at 406 Mount Street. Mr. Francis stated that the citizens of Berwick should be given a chance to experience what AT&T had to offer. The next speaker was Jimmy Lemoine, Jr. who resides at 207 Palmer Street. Jimmy is an installation technician with AT&T. He stated that he is very impressed with the product and would recommend it to anyone. He also stated that the product was very reliable and that service calls were minimal. After no further comments, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Adopt Ordinance No. 615 – AT&T Agreement – IP enabled video service. Duval Arthur made a motion to adopt the ordinance, Penny Crappell seconded the motion. Mayor Ratcliff then recognized Councilman Robison who stated that U-verse was a product that he would like to see offered to the residents of Berwick, but that the current agreement did not provide service to all of the citizens of Berwick. Mr. Robison stated that Allen's TV Cable's current contract requires them to service all areas of the town that is not in excess of 250 feet of the main trunk system or does not have 20 residences per mile. He wanted to introduce an amendment to the ordinance that would require AT&T to service the present jurisdictional boundaries of the town and any additions thereto by annexation or other legal means. Mayor Ratcliff then asked Mr. Robison if he wanted to make a motion to amend the proposed ordinance and Mr. Robison stated that he would like to make a motion. Mayor Ratcliff then asked for guidance from Town Attorney Allen McElroy on how to proceed. Mr. McElroy stated that he should act on the original motion and second, unless the motion and second were withdrawn. Councilmen Arthur and Crappell declined to withdraw their motion and second. Mayor Ratcliff then called for a voice vote. Councilmen Arthur, Crappell, Lombardo and Thomas voted to adopt Ordinance No. 615. Councilman Robison voted against adopting the ordinance. The ordinance was adopted by a vote of four to one.

Item #3 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 616 – Amend 2009-10 Budget. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda – Introduce Ordinance No. 617 – Introduce 2010-11 Consolidated Budget. Upon motion by Duval Arthur and seconded by Damon Robison, the ordinance was introduced unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda – Resolution No. 14-10 – Supporting Acadiana Regional Development District. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Mayor Ratcliff then recognized District 50 Representative Sam Jones. Representative Jones stated that the Berwick Walking Trail program has a great reputation throughout the state and was pleased to announce that the section from Pattie Drive to Renwick Drive had been approved for funding. He also stated that the improvements at the Jesse Fontenot boat landing were hurricane allocated funds and that he had acquired another \$100,000 from the Department of Transportation for the Thorguson Drive rehabilitation project. The proposed wharf repairs at the Oregon Street boat ramp were being allocated from the hurricane funds. Mr. Jones also stated that he had pushed to have the funds moved down to the local level because they had a better idea of how to use the funds more effectively. He mentioned an additional \$5,000,000 million that had been set aside for economic recovery. The town will apply for the funds before the August 31, 2010 deadline for possible repairs to Belleview/Front Street and wharves on Belleview/Front Street. Mr. Jones was also instrumental in acquiring \$5,000 for the Tour de Teche canoe

race that will be terminating in the Berwick area. He then touched on the future expansion of I-49 through Berwick and Patterson area. Due to the bids for construction of overpasses between Lafayette and Patterson coming in under bid, there are additional funds that will allow for the construction of the overpass in the Four Corners area. He will be meeting with the mayors of Patterson and Berwick to discuss an overpass at Red Cypress Road and a service road from Southeast Boulevard in Bayou Vista to Thorguson Road in Berwick. Mayor Ratcliff thanked Representative Jones for all of his helping in securing funds for the Town of Berwick. Rick Dugas, with the Office of Coastal Restoration, addressed the mayor and council and spoke of the maintenance dredging that will occur in Berwick Bay. It will consist of about 2,000,000 millions yards of dredged material. It will require a letter of no objection for the town, which Allen Benoit has already addressed. Tom Mire with BP stated that BP's claim center will be transitioning to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility. The claim office will remain at the same address in Bayou Vista. The outreach office which is located in the facility with the claim office will be moving to a new location on Southeast Boulevard across from Popeye's. BP has paid approximately \$3.2 million in claims in St. Mary Parish.

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

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Louis Ratcliff - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Newell W. Slaughter - CAO/Town Clerk