



Town of Berwick

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

July 12, 2011

Date of Notice: July 5, 2011

A Public Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: July 12, 2011
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 14, 2011

Treasurer's Report

Guests:

Police Report

Fire Report

Public Works Report

Consulting Engineers Report

Committee Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Public Hearing – Amend Zoning Map from R-1, Single family housing, to B-1, Highway business.**
- 2. Public Hearing – Minor subdivision extension.**
- 3. Public Hearing - Ordinance No. 624-Changes and amendments to Chapter 4, Animals, Section 4-1 through 4-4**
- 4. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 625 – Set Millage Rates for 2011**
- 5. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 626 – Set Drainage Fee for 2011**
- 6. Consider approval of zoning map change from R-1, Single Family Housing to B-1, Highway Business**
- 7. Consider approval of Minor subdivision extension.**
- 8. Consider Adoption of Ordinance No. 624 - Changes and amendments to Chapter 4, Animals, Section 4-1 through 4-4**
- 9. Consider and Adopt Ordinance No. 625 – Set Millage Rates for 2011**
- 10. Consider and Adopt Ordinance No. 626 – Set Drainage Fee for 2011**
- 11. Set budget workshop for July 26, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.**
- 12. Parade Permit – August 2, 2011 - National Night Out Against Crime – Keith Fontenot**
- 13. Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 13-11 – TEP Grant**
- 14. Re-appoint Berwick Housing Authority Board Members:**
 - a. Lilly Rebaradi – Term will expire December 31, 2011**
 - b. Eunice Cunningham – Term will expire December 31, 2012**
 - c. Jacki Ackel – Term will expire December 31, 2013**
 - d. Robert Thigpen – Term will expire December 31, 2014**
 - e. James Richard – Term will expire December 31, 2015**

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 12, 2011

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 12, 2011, at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m.

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

Absent: Edgar Thomas

Also present were representatives of The Daily Review and KWBJ.

Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur led the prayer.

Councilman Damon Robison 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 Damon Robison.

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

Guests attending the meeting were Kathy Broussard, Darin Guidry and Allen Kelly. Kathy Broussard, representing the Council on Aging, invited the mayor and council to attend two functions that will be held at the Bayou Vista Community Center. On July 23, 2011, the Council will host a Health and Resource Fair. Music, food and door prizes will be available. The second event will be held on September 11, 2011 and will be a combination Remember 9-11 Day and Grandparents Day. Candidates for the fall elections will be invited to participate. Mr. Guidry addressed the mayor and council and announced his candidacy for the State Senate seat that will be vacated by Butch Gautreaux. He stated his qualifications and asked for their support.

Police Chief James Richard presented the police report for the month of June, 2011. Chief Richard stated that the speeding tickets issued for June, 2011, were about double the amount written in May, 2010. Chief Richard also stated that arrests for June, 2011, were also about the same as June, 2010.

Chief Richard stated that due to the bridge on Thorguson Road/Berwick South Road being closed traffic on River Road was greatly increased. This resulted in the great increase of traffic citations being issued for the month of June. Councilman Robison asked Chief Richard to look into putting a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Oakland Drive and Shadowlawn Drive. 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 not present, but Mayor Ratcliff reported that there were no fire calls for the month of June, 2011. 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 town crews have opened all of the seawall gates. The clean-up of the Front Street area is still in progress. Preparation for the new walking trail on Fairview Drive is complete and the town is waiting for the notice to proceed from the State of Louisiana. Street patching and the overlay of the walking trail from Highway 182 to Berwick High School have been completed. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, committee reports.

Penny Crappell reported that the baseball and softball seasons have been completed with great results. After no further comments, the mayor moved on to the next item on the agenda, new business.

Item # 1 on the agenda – Public Hearing to Amend Zoning Map from R-1, Single Family Housing, to B-1, Highway Business. After no comments from the audience or council, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #2 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Minor subdivision extension. Town Attorney Allen McElroy explained that the lots created by this extension must be purchased by the property owner that this new lot is attached to, or an adjacent property owner. If not purchased by either, the lot must be retained by Mr. Smith. After no comments from the council or the audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #3 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 624 – Changes and amendments to Chapter 4, Animals, Section 4-1 through 4-4. Town Attorney Allen McElroy explained that Ordinance No. 624 that is being considered for approval is the amended version of the original ordinance that was introduced at the May 10 council meeting and that was tabled at the June 14 council meeting. Also in the council packet is Ordinance No. 624C which contains revisions that were discussed in the June 14 council meeting and other revisions that were added after receiving input from Lee Lamury and council members. Mr. McElroy stated that he had sent copies of Ordinance 624C to Lee Lamury, Patrick Hebert and Mike Smith. After being questioned by Don Darbonne, who resides at 311 Nicklaus Street, Mr. McElroy explained that the existing ordinance regarding the keeping of animals in the Town of Berwick excludes most animals. The proposed ordinance will update the existing ordinance and install a permitting process where citizens may be allowed to keep certain animals if they meet certain parameters. Lee Lamury, who resides at 329 Nicklaus, stated that he appreciated being part of the process and that he thinks that the citizens of Berwick would be protected by the new ordinance. After no further comments, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #4 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 625 – Set Millage rates for 2011. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #5 on the agenda – Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 626 – Set Drainage Fee for 2011. After no comments from the council or audience, Mayor Ratcliff closed the public hearing.

Item #6 on the agenda – Consider approval for zoning map changes from R-1, Single Family Housing, to B-1, Highway Business. Damon Robison made a motion to approve the map changes. Penny Crappell seconded the motion. Town Attorney Allen McElroy then stated the approval must be conditioned upon the execution of the servitude grant that has not been signed. Mr. Robison then amended his motion to include the servitude grant and Mrs. Crappell again seconded the motion. The zoning map change was approved unanimously with the condition that the servitude grant must be signed.

Item #7 on the agenda – Consider approval of minor subdivision extension. Upon motion by Troy Lombardo and seconded by Duval Arthur, the extension was approved unanimously. The approval was conditioned upon the signing of the servitude grant.

Item #8 on the agenda – Consider adoption of Ordinance No. 624 – Changes and amendments to Chapter 4, Animals, Section 4-1 through 4-4. Town Attorney Allen McElroy explained the changes from Ordinance 624A to 624C. Mr. McElroy explained that in Section 4-1, there would be two types of permitting processes, one is for large animals, horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, or other large farm animals, and the other would be for small animals. Persons wanting to keep large animals would be required to apply, pay a fee and notify adjacent property owners. Persons wanting to keep small animals, rabbits, chickens, other fowl, would require a permit only. Both permits would require council approval. In section 4-4, the language was edited to make it less confusing to the person seeking a permit. The person would have to have four of the five council members to approve the permit. Ordinance 624A stated that pigs were prohibited, whereas 624C would allow pigs if approved by the council. A processing fee of \$250 was also added in 624C. Notices to the adjacent property owners must be by certified mail. Duval Arthur made a motion to amend Ordinance 624A to include the changes proposed in 624C. Penny Crappell

seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the proposed changes were approved unanimously. Penny Crappell then motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 624C. Duval Arthur seconded the motion and the ordinance was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Item #9 on the agenda - Consider adoption of Ordinance No. 625 – Set Millage Rates for 2011. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Troy Lombardo, the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #10 on the agenda – Consider adoption of Ordinance No. 626 – Set Drainage Fee for 2011. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Item #11 on the agenda – Set budget workshop for July 26, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Ratcliff set the budget workshop for July 26, 2011.

Item #12 on the agenda – Parade Permit for National Night Out Against Crime. Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur, the permit was approved unanimously.

Item #13 on the agenda – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 13-11 – TEP Grant. Upon motion by Damon Robison and seconded by Duval Arthur, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item #14 on the agenda – Re-appoint Berwick Housing Authority Board Members:

- a. Lilly Rebaridi – Term will expire December 31, 2011
- b. Eunice Cunningham – Term will expire December 31, 2012
- c. Jacki Ackel – Term will expire December 31, 2013
- d. Robert Thigpen – Term will expire December 31, 2014
- e. James Richard – Term will expire December 31, 2015

Upon motion by Penny Crappell and seconded by Duval Arthur the board members were appointed 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