

Town of Bernice
Council Meeting
August 11, 2026

Mayor Mildred Ferguson and the Town Council met in regular session on August 11, 2026, in the Council Room of the Town Hall with the following present: Mayor Ferguson, Gene Terral, Amy Pesnell, Joanna Ward, and Lanell Clubbs with Karen Hall being absent due to illness.

Also present: Town Attorney Joe Cusimano; Lana Patton, Town Clerk; Police Chief Larry Jones; Asst. Fire Chief J. R. Horton; Dena Lee, The Banner; Clyde Hays, Mayor Elect; Nick and Dinah Griffin; and citizens.

Mayor Ferguson called the meeting to order. Amy Pesnell led the prayer. Lana Patton called the roll. Amy Pesnell made a motion with Joanna Ward seconding the motion to approve the previous minutes. Vote was unanimously approved.

Dinah Griffin and Nick Griffin explained to the council about the Armory Project saying it was to prevent firearm injuries and deaths by providing an out of home firearm storage site.

Lanell Clubbs made a motion with Gene Terral seconding the motion to approve a resolution to allow the Corney Creek Festival Committee, Bernice Service Club, Bernice Industrial Development Corporation, Bernice Business Club, Bernice Historical Society, and Reeves Memorial Medical Center use of the Bernice Civic Center due to their generous contributions for renovating the building. Vote was unanimously approved.

Joanna Ward made a motion with Lanell Clubbs seconding the motion to approve a policy and procedures to be followed on all complaints received by the Town of Bernice. Vote was unanimously approved.

Amy Pesnell made a motion with Joanna Ward seconding the motion to approve a Citizen Participation Plan required by Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Vote was unanimously approved.

Joanna Ward made a motion with Gene Terral seconding the motion to approve the LCDBG Public Facility Management Resolution for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant FY 2026 Program.

Mayor Ferguson reported on the activities of the town saying that the Back-to-School program was a success with approximately 300 children participating. Mayor Ferguson introduced Wesley Hardy and Melissa Alvariz as new employees.

Police Chief Larry Jones reported on the activities of the Police Department. Chief Jones recommended to the Council that Timothy Lane and Jiquez Wafer be hired as part-time patrol officers. Lanell Clubbs made a motion with Joanna Ward seconding the motion to approve the recommendation. Votes were as follows: Yeas: Clubbs, Ward. Nays: Terral. Abstain: Pesnell. Absent: Hall. Motion failed.

Asst. Fire Chief J. R. Horton reported on the activities of the Fire Department. Asst. Chief Horton stated that he will meet with Gene Terral and Lanell Clubbs so they can report back to the Council at the next Council Meeting.

Amy Pesnell made a motion to adjourn with Lanell Clubbs seconding the motion. Vote was unanimously approved. Gene Terral made a motion to adjourn with Lanell Clubbs seconding the motion.

Attest: Lana Patton, Town Clerk

Approve: Mayor Mildred Ferguson