



TOWN OF PEARL RIVER

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VIRGIL R. PHILLIP

LORA CUTRER

DAVID McGREGOR

KATHRYN WALSH

Aldermen

DAVID McQUEEN

Mayor

BRIDGETT BENNETT

Mayor Pro Tempore

CARLA O. BENELLI

Town Clerk

TIMOTHY MATHISON

Town Attorney

MATHIEU E. DAIGLE

Assistant Town Attorney

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on December 20, 2016 at the Town Hall in Pearl River. Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Alderman Phillips gave the invocation; the pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Bennett, Phillips, Cutrer and McGregor were present. Also present were Attorney Mathew Daigle, Attorney Tim Mathison, Chief Jennings, and the Town Clerk, Carla Benelli. Alderman Walsh joined the meeting at 8:09pm.

Mayor McQueen called for approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting held on November 9, November 15th and November 29, 2016. Alderman Cutrer asked about the attached pages missing from the minutes on November 15th, the town clerk will be sure to get those to each alderman. Alderman Bennett made the motion to pass the minutes, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.
All in Favor. So Moved.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Alderman Bennett, the mayor and the council recognized several children and Creekside Jr. High School FFA Chapter.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #16-15-11, "Commercial Grease Trap/Interceptors"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or any questions. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept ordinance. Alderman Phillips made the motion to accept, Alderman Bennett made the second.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Ordinance #16-20-12, "FY2016 Budget"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or any questions. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept ordinance. Alderman Phillips made the motion to accept, Alderman Bennett made the second.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Ordinance #16-21-12, "2017 Proposed Budget"; Alderman Bennett asked that this ordinance be moved to the bottom of the agenda because the amounts will change depending on the outcome of the voting on the next four ordinances. Alderman Cutrer made the second.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Ordinance #16-29-11, "Mayor's Compensation"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. Alderman Bennett spoke about the budget and which budget any proposed raises would be coming from. Attorney Daigle and Attorney Mathison explained the process of how to make changes to the Ordinance. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept ordinance. Alderman Phillips made the motion to change the amount on the ordinance back to \$50,000.00, seconded by Alderman Cutrer. Alderman Bennett made a motion to amend the ordinance to read \$53,000.00, seconded by Alderman McGregor.
3 in Favor. 1 Against (Alderman Cutrer). So Moved.

The Mayor called for a motion to approve Ordinance #16-29-11 as amended. Motion made by Alderman Bennett and seconded by Alderman Phillips.
All in Favor. So moved.

Ordinance #16-28-11, "Town Clerks Compensation"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. Mayor McQueen explained that he had not given the Town Clerk a raise since he had taken office. Alderman Bennett talked about the clerk position and the changes that had been made in the past year. Alderman Phillips talked about and asked questions about the \$150.00 extra pay per additional meeting for the clerk. There was more discussion, see the CD. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept ordinance. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, Alderman McGregor made the second.
3 in Favor. 1 Against (Alderman Cutrer). So Moved.

Alderman Cutrer wanted her opinion in the minutes; she voted against Ordinance #16-28-11 because she says that everyone knew what they were going to be making when they started the term and doesn't think that anyone should get a raise in the middle of the term, she stated that maybe at the end of the term a raise would be given for the next set of people coming into office.

Ordinance #16-30-11, "Chief's Compensation"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. Alderman Bennett confirmed with the Chief that he is also receiving an additional supplemental pay of \$6,000.00 from the state. Alderman Bennett asked Chief Jennings to justify the \$5,000.00 raise for the chief's position on this ordinance. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept the ordinance. Alderman Phillips made the motion to amend the ordinance from \$53,000 per year to \$50,000 per year. No second. Motion failed. The mayor called for a motion to accept the ordinance as it reads at \$53,000.00, no motion made. Alderman Cutrer made a motion to reduce the amount back down to \$48,000.00 per year, second by Alderman Bennett. The mayor had roll call.

Alderman Bennett	Yes
Alderman Phillips	No
Alderman McGregor	Yes
Alderman Cutrer	Yes

So Moved

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. Motion made by Alderman Cutrer and second by Alderman Bennett.
3 in Favor. 1 Against (Alderman Phillips). So Moved.

Ordinance #16-27-11, "Aldermen's Compensation"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. Alderman Bennett made the motion that the ordinance be amended back to the original amount of \$10,800.00 per year. Second made by Alderman Cutrer.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. Motion made by Alderman Cutrer and second by Alderman Bennett.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Ordinance #16-21-12, "2017 Proposed Budget"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. The budget was amended by Attorney Daigle to reflect the above four ordinances passed. The mayor asked for a motion to move this ordinance to the end of the Agenda once again while the attorney makes the changes. Motion made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Bennett.

All in Favor. So Moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor McQueen read the election results for the Term Limits. 973 people voted for the term limits and 183 voted against. The Term Limits will begin in January 2019.

The Oaks at Taylor Farms. Mayor McQueen announced that the owner and his engineer is amending the plot plans and will get with the Planning and Zoning Commission for a meeting at a later date. The plans were approved with open ditch drainage. Alderman Phillips would like to have something in writing that no one in the new area is allowed to close in any ditches. Attorney Mathison explained the legal steps that need to be taken on the issue. There was more discussion on this subject, see CD.

Back to the 2017 Budget

Ordinance #16-21-12, "2017 Proposed Budget"; the Mayor opened the Public Hearing and then asked the council if they had anything to add or had any questions. Attorney Daigle explained the changes that had been made to the budget to reflect the passed ordinances. There was more discussion on the 2017 Proposed Budget, see the CD. The mayor closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman McGregor.

3 in Favor. 1 Against (Alderman Bennett). So Moved.

COMMENTS & REPORTS:

Alderman Cutrer talked about the ROTC meet for the Pearl River High School who took four trophies. She also announced the Toys for Tots give away at the Harbor Center. On January 14th from 8:30am to 12:30pm there is a meeting with Keep America Beautiful, the meeting is open to everyone.

Alderman Bennett reminded everyone to register for the SWIFTREACH911 program. She also mentioned that the toy give away with A-1 Wrecker Service was last week and it went very well, she also thanked everyone for their donations. Alderman Bennett talked about the 5K run coming up in April. She announced that she had the forms for the Beautification Program and the sponsorship of the flower beds. She also reminded everyone about the Pearl River Mardi Gras Parade in January.

Alderman Phillips had his grandson announce that he would be collecting used Christmas Trees again this year.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor McQueen brought up the Wayne Bice variance, the council had never voted on the extension. He said he would also like to change the address to 65409 Calhoun Street. The mayor called for a motion to extend the variance until March 2017. Motion made by Alderman Bennett and second by Alderman Phillips.

All in Favor. So Moved.

The mayor wanted to send Congratulations to his wife, Karen, who had retired from the City of Slidell after 28 years of service.

Alderman Phillips asked the public to let him know if there are any needy families that might need assistance, they have some food baskets available.

The mayor talked about Kenzie Bennett and the accomplishments she has had this year. The mayor also thanked everyone who came out and helped with the Christmas Program last week.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Nothing to add.

PARISH COUNCIL:

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

Alderman Walsh announced that there is an opening on the board. The Town will announce the opening for a board volunteer on its Facebook page too.

FIRE DISTRICT 11:

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

SCHOOL BOARD:

OTHER COMMENTS:

None

MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 8:43 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20th DAY OF DECEMBER 2016.

Carla Benelli, Town Clerk

Honorable David McQueen, Mayor