



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 February 21, 2017 at the Town Hall in Pearl River. Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

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

Mayor McQueen asked everyone to keep the McQueen family in their prayers. Janice McQueen, ex-mayor, had passed away last week.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Bennett, Phillips, Walsh, Cutrer and McGregor were present. Also present were Attorney Mathew Daigle, and the Town Clerk, Carla Benelli. Chief Jennings was absent.

Mayor McQueen called for approval of the minutes from the Special Council Meeting held on January 17, 2017. Alderman Bennett asked that the correct citations issued for 2016 and the 70452 area code to be added to the minutes. Alderman Cutrer asked that the names of people who spoke during the "Public Comments" section be added along with topic to the minutes. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept with changes, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to move "New Business" up on the agenda. So moved by Alderman Walsh; seconded by Alderman Phillips.

All in Favor. So Moved.

NEW BUSINESS:

David Wolf with Adams and Reese spoke about the DEQ Loan the Town is applying for and the existing loan the Town has with DHH. Mr. Wolf explained the process to the council and how to move the process on faster. He is asking for preliminary approval from the council on the loan for \$2million dollars. The interest rate would be .95%. This would be a line of credit. He introduced Resolution #17-02 "Preliminary Approval for DEQ Loan" for adoption. Ordinance #17-15-02 "Authorizing Issuance of Two Million Dollars of Taxable Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2017, of the Town of Pearl River, State of Louisiana, prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bond" was also introduced by Mr. Wolf.

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance #17-15-02, moved by Alderman Walsh; seconded by Alderman McGregor.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Resolution #17-02; moved by Alderman Walsh; seconded by Alderman Bennett.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Oscar Boudreaux, the Town's Engineer spoke about the Round-About being built in Pearl River. Mr. Boudreaux explained the Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Louisiana and the cost to the town to move the water and sewer lines for the Round-About. Mayor McQueen asked for approval from the council on Resolution #17-21 giving the mayor the authority to enter into an agreement with the State of Louisiana on the project. Motion made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman Walsh.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Resolution NO: 2017:003, "Resolution of Mayor and Board of Aldermen of St. Tammany (Pearl River) relating to the formation of a Fire Prevention Division. The Fire Chief explained that Fire Prevention is now mandatory and by creating a fire prevention division they can get the point's that is needed for Class III. This will also allow Fire District 11 to be trained to perform inspections. Attorney Mathison said that the codes would need to be adopted by the Town with an ordinance. The mayor called for a motion to accept the Resolution; motion made by Alderman Cutrer, seconded by Alderman Walsh.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Alderman Walsh asked to postpone Ordinance #17-17-02 "Annexation of 66201 and 66203 Hwy. 41 Spur" until April so that the council and planning commission can meet. Alderman Bennett said that the Public Hearing had already been held by the planning commission tonight and wanted to know why they were being asked by Alderman Walsh to postpone. Alderman Phillips asked if they could move back to line #6 that had been skipped over before continuing with this ordinance.

The mayor asked the council to decide if they were going to move money to pay Global Disaster Recovery up to 2/3/2017, \$125,000.00. Alderman Walsh stated that she would like to pass a resolution tonight to pay them up-to- date only and stop; she would also like to see the Police Department pay their share of the invoices from Global Disaster Recovery. The council wants Billy with Global Disaster to come back to the Town Meeting with a plan and the amount that the Town will have to pay to complete the filing process. Alderman Walsh made the motion and Alderman McGregor seconded it.
All in Favor. So Moved.

Back to Ordinance #17-17-02. Alderman Walsh said that the parish requires an ordinance on all annexations and in the past the Town had not been doing this correctly. Attorney Mathison also stated that the annexations must be done by ordinances, he also agreed that the town should take a step back to be assured that the process is done correctly. Ms. Lola with the Planning Commission spoke and explained each step taken for the annexations. She also stated that she had been in touch with Mr. Thompson with the parish and the only thing that is needed to complete this annexation is an ordinance from the Town of Pearl River. Attorney Mathison suggested that this ordinance be introduced tonight and have the Public Hearing next month. Alderman Bennett stated that she did not think we should hold up the Carrasco's any longer since they have been waiting since November. Ms. Lola said that they are following the same steps from volume 5 as they had done every year. Alderman Walsh made the motion to introduce the ordinance, second by Alderman Cutrer.

Mr. Carrasco, the property owner, asked the council questions about why he should annex into the town. He stated that he is confused and wondering why he is having such a hard time getting this completed. The discussion continued for some time about the zoning of the property. Alderman Bennett would like for the council to let the Planning and Zoning Commission do their job. Mayor McQueen stated that we should get this behind us and not make these people wait another month. Mayor McQueen asked the council to pass this ordinance when it comes up under the Planning and Zoning section on this agenda.
All in Favor. So Moved.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Paul Andre', Vice President of Strategy & Business Development for Children's International Medical Group spoke about his business. They would like to have more involvement with the community and partner or host town events.

Alderman Bennett recognized Ronnie Marshall for his dedication to the Town of Pearl River and its citizens. She spoke of some of the fantastic things that Ronnie had done to help the town. Mayor McQueen and Alderman Bennett presented Ronnie Marshall with a Certificate of Recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #16-16-08 "Commercial Renovation Permits". Attorney Daigle had presented some additions to the ordinance which was presented to the council before the meeting began. After the mayor explained the ordinance to the public he called for a motion to accept; motion was made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Walsh.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #207-12-16 "Building Permits". Attorney Daigle had presented some additions to the ordinance which was presented to the council before the meeting began. Alderman Phillips asked if the homeowner could be the General Contractor, the mayor replied that the form that is required for that would be added to the end of the ordinance. Alderman Cutrer asked why there were "to be determined" on the cost sheet and the mayor explained that this fee is determined by the inspector. The word "Yearly" would be added to the section on the cost sheet to read "All inspection fees will increase \$2 yearly beginning in 2018". After the mayor explained the ordinance to the public he called for a motion to accept; motion was made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Walsh.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #01-03-A "Mobile Homes/Trailers". The council and the mayor discussed the ordinance and the wording on page 1 of the ordinance. Alderman Walsh requested that Section 1 - A; "Mobile Homes are allowed in Zoning Districts R1, R2 and R3 by Special Permit" be changed to read "Mobile Homes are allowed in Zoning District R3". Alderman Bennett requested that the words "Special Permit" be left in Section 1 - A. Alderman Walsh made a motion to table this ordinance until the March meeting, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #174-A "Sewer and Water Ordinance" including State of LA Safe Drinking Water Fee increase. Alderman Phillips explained that the increase is out of the councils hands. Alderman Cutrer asked to have something on next month bill announcing the increase. Mayor McQueen closed the public hearing and asked for a motion to pass, Alderman Bennett made the motion and Alderman Cutrer made the second.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #17-17-01 "Schedule for Credit Card Fees". Standard charge is about 3% and the Town is absorbing the charges. Alderman McGregor asked if the charges would include debit cards, the Town Clerk explained that the machines do not have the ability to accept debt, only credit. Even if the Town could enter the card as a debt, the Town is still charged by the credit card machine company to accept the debt. Mayor McQueen closed the public hearing and asked for a motion. Motion made by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMENTS & REPORTS:

Legislative Comments and reports

Alderman Bennett gave an update on the Run the River 5K, registration is ongoing and the shirts are on order. Be sure to sign up by the beginning of March to save \$5 on the registration. She also gave an update on the benefit for Dana Bourgeois, over \$3400 was raised. She also announced that the meetings for the Honey Island Swamp Festival are held every two weeks and the public is welcome, their input is also welcome. She also announced that our Lieutenant Governor is pushing the "Bayou Krewe" which is

tourism for the state of Louisiana. The web site has lots of information and Alderman Bennett had brochures to pass out. The mayor also spoke about becoming a Louisiana Ambassador for tourism. The Lieutenant Governor has also promised to attend our Honey Island Swamp Fest. To get more details, please obtain a CD from the Town Hall.

Alderman Phillips stated that he would be walking the upcoming Run the River 5K and that the route would be the same as the parade route. He also mentioned that Alderman McGregor was in the duck business and had ducks to sell for the duck race at the Honey Island Swamp Festival. Alderman McGregor suggested adding stickers to the ducks to promote Pearl River and the Festival.

Alderman Bennett announced that there would be free food and drinks at the Lions Club for all of the participants immediately following the 5K race on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Also, Saturday, April 8th is the Town's Easter Program and Easter Egg Hunt.

Alderman Cutrer talked about "Polish the Pearl" and areas of concern. March 6th thru the 17th is the poster contest for the schools. The winners will be posted in our local restaurants. Saturday, March 25th is the clean-up day from 8am to 11am. She spoke about Joey Wrenn with the Lions Club possibly cooking for the crew after the clean-up, Mayor McQueen stated that everyone would probably go to the Lion's Club for the after clean-up luncheon since the tables and chairs are already setup and the cooking will be done there too. The Leader's Against Litter is set for March 10th in Covington at 8:30am on Coop Drive. She also stated that Jubilee had provided the flyers for us to help get the word out. Alderman Phillips gave a huge shout out to Jubilee and their employees for the wonderful job they do every day.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Not Present

MAYOR:

The mayor announced that there would be a gate installed on the side of the police department. Alderman Phillips will be working with the mayor on the boat landing project. The mayor also invited everyone to visit the Senior Center Building, we have been working on it and it's in great shape. The Center looks good and he is very proud of it. He asked the council to come up with a rate so that they can start renting out the center for parties at night and weekends. The mayor mentioned that the Town Clerk had chosen the paint colors, the flooring and the curtains. He also said that the Town will have an office in the front of the Senior Center with a lock; once this is done all of the aldermen will get a key to that office. The Planning Commission along with the Recreation District will also be able to utilize the office if needed.

The mayor also said that he had a complaint about an electrical problem in the park and we are in the process of having all of the repairs done along with taking down the light poles in the park. Each pavilion will have power and power boxes, all lines will be underground. When everything is complete there will be ground-fault breakers and outlets, everything will be done right. Alderman Phillips asked if there should be a charge for the use of power at the pavilions. Attorney Mathison stated that the town has the right to charge for the use of the park pavilions. There was more discussion pertaining to charging for the use of the park pavilions. Please obtain a CD from the Town Hall to hear more.

PARISH COUNCIL:

None

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

None

FIRE DISTRICT 11:

None

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

Ms. Lola spoke about a special use permit that was requested for a garage/shed to be installed at 125 Moldaner Court, neighbors had already submitted letters of approval. The garage will only be for storage of a boat, the only issue was the size of the shed. This is a temporary building and the permit is just to allow for the size of the shed. Alderman Phillips asked about the permit type and if a variance or a special permit should have been issued. Mayor McQueen explained the difference between a variance and special permit. Ms. Lola explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission could give a special use permit without a public hearing. Ms. Lola stated that 125 Moldaner Court and the annexation for Spur 41 were both recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. So moved to accept special permit was made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Bennett.

4 in Favor. Alderman Walsh abstained. So Moved.

Alderman Walsh asked to have workshops scheduled to discuss the ordinance regarding Camper Trailers and to meet with the Planning Commission along with the Mayor and Attorney Mathison. Ms. Lola also asked if she could meet with the mayor and Attorney Mathison to discuss some of these things before the meeting is scheduled with the Aldermen. Mayor McQueen told the council to get together and get the meetings set. He would also like for everyone to sit down and write notes so that when they meet again all of the problems can be worked out at the same time. The mayor noted that he has been confused because ordinances contradict each other and then the Planning and Zoning book has its own set of rules. He wants information to be correct when speaking to citizens.

SCHOOL BOARD:

Not Present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

One citizen complained about the mess that was left behind in the ditches by the fiber optics crew. The mayor said that he is working on the cleanup when it's not raining.

Alderman Phillips asked if Rebel Lane was going to be blacktopped after the construction. The mayor replied that he thinks it will be done but will have to double check on that.

Jack Sessions stated that he was just apologizing to Mr. Carasco and didn't mean to interrupt the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 9:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.


Carla Benelli, Town Clerk


Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor