



# TOWN OF PEARL RIVER

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BRIDGETT BENNETT

VIRGIL R. PHILLIPS

LORA CUTRER

DAVID McGREGOR

Aldermen

DAVID McQUEEN

Mayor

KATHRYN WALSH

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 April 18, 2017 at the Town Hall in Pearl River. Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

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

## ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Bennett, Phillips, Walsh, Cutrer and McGregor were present. Also present were Attorney Mathison 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 March 13<sup>th</sup> and the regular Council Meeting held on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

**All in Favor. So Moved.**

## SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Sheriff of St. Tammany, Randy Smith, spoke for several minutes about the Jail and Justice Center Complex Sales Tax Renewal which is on the ballot for April 29<sup>th</sup>. He spoke of the tax and its importance to public safety and the justice system for St. Tammany Parish. Gene Bellisario also spoke about the tax and on educating the public about the tax.

Michael King, owner of Cajun Mike's Creole Kitchen, Inc. talked about opening his restaurant in Pearl River. He also spoke about having radio shows around the country and cooking shows. He informed the council that he would be opening up his restaurant in the old Lorenzo's building; he has a three year lease with a one year buy out. Mr. King said that he would not make it in Pearl River without the option to serve Beer and Wine. He also explained that he would not be serving liquor on Sundays because of the churches. He'll be doing some big advertising on this restaurant. Alderman Phillips suggested that Mr. King put his plans down in writing and submit it to the council. Attorney Mathison stated that state law says that when a municipality prohibits alcohol within 300 ft. of a church, school or playground then the state can't issue a liquor permit. If the town didn't have an ordinance stating that alcohol could not be served within 300 ft. of a church, school or playground then the state would be allowed to issue a permit. Mayor McQueen stated that the council would have to throw out the entire ordinance and start over. Mr. King measured from front door of the church to the front door of the restaurant, it measured approximately 260 ft. but if he used the deck it would be more than 300 ft.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #17-21-03 "Adopting certain codes relative to the creation of a "Fire Prevention Division of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 11". Mayor McQueen closed the public hearing and called for a motion to accept. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #03-24-17 "Franchise renewal for CenterPoint Energy (ENTEX)". Kenneth Wheat, Senior Marketing Consultant, spoke for several minutes about the renewal. Alderman Cutrer asked Mr. Wheat if there was anything he could do about the gas leaks in Pearl River over the past months. Mayor McQueen closed the public hearing and called for a motion to accept; motion was made by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Cutrer.  
**All in Favor. So Moved.**

Mayor McQueen read a proclamation proclaiming April as "Safe Digging Month"

Mayor McQueen opened the public hearing on Ordinance #03-22-17 "Forming Keep Pearl River Beautiful Commission". The council and the mayor discussed the ordinance; the mayor explained why he was against this ordinance. Alderman Bennett also explained her reasons for not wanting this ordinance. Alderman Walsh asked to table this ordinance so that she would have time to talk with other municipalities because she was under the impression that a municipality had to have an ordinance like this to be affiliated with KAB. Mayor McQueen stated that he had spoken with several mayors in the area and none of them had to pass a law to form a commission for KAB. Alderman Bennett said that some citizens had asked that groups of people who could not afford to pay for their citations to do community service cleaning up the streets with an officer or reserve. The conversation went on for some time. Alderman Walsh made a motion to table this ordinance until the May meeting, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.  
**All in Favor. So Moved.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

MS4 (public hearing to be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>)

Introduce Resolution on Millage Rates, Renewing existing rate (public hearing to be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>)

Introduce Amended Ordinance for 2016 Final Budget (public hearing to be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>)

Introduce Amended Ordinance for 2017 Amended Budget (public hearing to be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>)

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **COMMENTS & REPORTS:**

##### **Legislative Comments and reports**

Alderman Bennett updated everyone on the Honey Island Swamp Festival and the Run the River 5K. She stated that the Run the River 5K had profited over twenty-five hundred dollars for a Pearl River student scholarship.

Alderman Bennett said that she had spoken to the town attorney about the sewage backup that had taken place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and since the town requires all town residents to tie into the town sewage system; who should be held responsible for damage to homes. Attorney Mathison suggested that we revisit this issue when the denial letters from the town's insurance company arrives. The attorney also stated that the sewage system is supposed to be a closed system and he is having difficulty seeing how the insurance company can claim "Act of God". Alderman McGregor asked if "Flapper Valves" are the towns responsible or the responsibility of the homeowners. The mayor stated that the homeowners were responsible for installing flapper valves but he believes the town is responsible for the sewer backing up into the town homes earlier this month. The mayor also said that he was working on getting smoke tests done; he would be paying an outside source to do the testing.

Alderman Cutrer gave an update on "Polish the Pearl". She thanked everyone for their participation. She also announced that the town took 1<sup>st</sup> place in our District and that we would be moving on to State, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Cutrer also spoke about the "Mayor's Prayer Breakfast". The profits from the \$10 fee being charged for the breakfast will be used for benevolence fund which is managed by the Baptist Church. The breakfast is being held on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and the doors open at 7:00 a.m. Flyers are available in the lobby and there aren't many tickets left.

Alderman Phillips spoke about the new Round-About being installed in Pearl River; it should be completed in late October. He also spoke about having water and electricity to the center of the Round-About. He also spoke about the sewage and the smell near the tennis courts at Pearl River High School. He would like the town attorney to send a letter to the St. Tammany Parish School board offering the towns assistance with running a sewer line to tie into the town's system.

Alderman Phillips talked about Gum Creek and getting it cleaned out. The debris is getting really bad. Mayor McQueen said that he would get with the property owner so that the property could be accessed.

Alderman Walsh asked that the council along with the mayor and attorney meet with the Planning and Zoning Commission at next months meeting.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:**

Not Present, Officer Hermann stated that the Chief had been in New Orleans dealing with NOPD and the media.

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

None

**RECREATION DISTRICT #5:**

Peter Finger spoke for several minutes about the cost of the repairs to the Pearl River boat launch and the liability insurance that they are trying to get.

**FIRE DISTRICT 11:**

None

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**

Meeting set for Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm with the aldermen, mayor and the town attorney about Magnolia Ridge Subdivision.

**SCHOOL BOARD:**

Not Present

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Don Thanars spoke about several connections that he has in the parish and offered his help to the community. He also announced that he would have raffle tickets to sell for the VFW Post 5174.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 9:21 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY APRIL OF 2017.

  
Carla Benelli, Town Clerk

  
Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor