



TOWN OF PEARL RIVER

39460 Willis Alley - Town Hall

P.O. Box 1270

Pearl River, Louisiana 70452

Phone (985) 863-5800

FAX (985) 863-2586

townhall@townofpearlriver.net

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 June 20, 2017 at the Town Hall in Pearl River. Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Mayor McQueen called for approval of the minutes from the Special Council meeting held on May 10, 2017 and the Regular Council meeting held on May 16, 2017. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 10th, seconded by Alderman McGregor. Alderman Cutrer asked to table the minutes from the council meeting held on May 16th until she could get with the clerk to make some changes, the changes she is requesting is plenty and detailed, second by Alderman Walsh.

All in Favor. So Moved.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Michael King, owner of Cajun Mike's Restaurant asked the council for permission to obtain his beer/liquor license. The mayor announced that Mr. King had closed the front door of the restaurant and moved the main entrance to the side which gave him the required distance from the church. Mr. King spoke for several more minutes. Alderman Phillips addressed Mr. King and told him that everyone who lives in Pearl River is related and that Mr. King needed to be careful what he says and who he says it to; that it would get out. The mayor called for a vote to allow him to obtain the license. Alderman McGregor, Cutrer, Bennett and Walsh voted yes and Alderman Phillips voted no.

4 For and 1 Against. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen and Alderman Cutrer recognized the Town Crew for all of their hard work and help with winning State in the cleanest city contest. The mayor presented certificates of appreciation to Brent Frierson, Sammy Reeves and Johnnie Woods. The following were not present: Ricky Hamm, Chad Priest, Brian Hopkins, Troy Cooper, Phillip Burge, Clay Sance, Derek Williams and Robert Frierson.

Alderman Bennett tabled her recognition of a special guest until next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor McQueen asked the council if they wanted to vote on his veto of Ordinance #03-22-17 "Keep Pearl River Beautiful". The council had nothing to add, the veto stands.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alderman Cutrer introduced Resolution No. R17-06-20 "Keep Pearl River Beautiful". Attorney Mathison read the resolution out loud. Mayor McQueen called for a motion to accept the resolution; Alderman Cutrer made the motion, second by Alderman Walsh.
All in Favor. So Moved.

COMMENTS & REPORTS:

Legislative Comments and reports

Alderman Bennett updated everyone on the Honey Island Swamp Festival. She announced that the festival had been a huge success. She also stated that the festival had made some money but wouldn't have the final number until next month. The Lions Club of Pearl River would be giving the money to several non-profit charities.

Mayor McQueen stated that the Honey Island Swamp Festival was a great event for our town and that the FaceBook rumors by a certain individual about how the festival was a big failure was totally untrue. The mayor also stated that the festival was called names such as "Mud Fest" and "Beer Fest" by this person, he stated that he can call it what he wants but it was a great time and a great success. The mayor said that Alderman Bennett worked tirelessly on this event for months; he also thanked everyone who helped and volunteered. The mayor commented on and tried to put to rest some of the rumors circulating around town and on facebook regarding operations of the festival. He announced that there would be another festival next year and that he hoped that everyone would come together to make it another great event.

One of the audience members asked Chief Jennings how many arrests or incidents had been made at the festival, Chief Jennings indicated that there had been none. Mayor McQueen said that the festival was safe and that there were no problems at all during the festival. Alderman Bennett also announced that there had been such a huge request for festival shirts and posters that they could still be ordered until the end of next week at the Town Hall.

Alderman Phillips talked about the 4th of July Fireworks Show that the town will be having next month. He announced that there would be plenty of kid activities along with a great fireworks show. The opening ceremony will begin at 6:00 pm in front of Town Hall.

Alderman Cutrer brought up the naming of the Pearl River alligator located at the end of Hwy 41 Spur near the Railroad Crossing.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Chief Jennings indicated that he had spoken to the town attorney about transferring money from one line item on the budget to another and was told that this had to be done by ordinance. Attorney Mathison said that this would be done by introduction tonight and would be on next month's agenda for a public hearing and vote on the amended ordinance. Chief Jennings said that he would like to move the ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from "Attorney Fees" and divide the money up as follows: Five-thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to "Ammunition/Training", two-thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to "Computer Repair/Replacement" and three-thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to "Office Expenses & Supplies".

Chief Jennings announced that there had been 38 arrests in the last month with one of them being the arrest of a person who had been in an accident with a fatality in December. Chief talked about the most recent arrest of a man who had committed double homicide. The chief explained that the arrest made by the Pearl River Police Department had taken place ¾ of mile outside of the town limits and the St. Tammany Sheriff Office had taken over the arrest and the investigation.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Gene Bellisario spoke about the Two-Lake Project which had been reduced down to One-Lake; this project is being opposed by the Parish. Mr. Bellisario also spoke about a bill that Sharon Hewitt had been working with; the bill had passed regarding Cleaning and Dredging Scenic Rivers. The bill that had passed in session would allow the cleaning and dredging of scenic rivers for drainage purposes only.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

Peter Finger talked about the boat landing and the improvements that they will be moving forward on. Alderman Phillips explained some of the changes and additions that are in the works with the boat launch. A drawing of the plans will be left in the court room for anyone to see. Mr. Finger also gave the town clerk a copy of the Rec. District #5 liability coverage for their files.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

No business

FIRE DISTRICT 11:

Left a Chiefs report.

SCHOOL BOARD:

Not Present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Samantha Dial with A-1 Wrecker asked Chief Jennings about her Public Records Request and why she hadn't gotten it yet. The Chief said that he would have to let the town attorney look at the request to see what records could be turned over. Ms. Dodd indicated that she had put in the request because the PRPD had not called A-1 Wrecker since April and she understood that the Police Department used a rotation list for wrecker service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Due to technical problems with the recorder there are no recorded minutes of this meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 8:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20th DAY OF JUNE 2017.


Carla Benelli, Town Clerk


Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor