

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on July 18, 2017 at the Town Hall in Pearl River. Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Mayor McQueen asked everyone to keep the Livingston family in their prayers after the passing of Johnny Livingston who was a Town of Pearl River Alderman for 17 years.

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

Mayor McQueen called for approval of the minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on June 20, 2017. Alderman Cutrer asked for an addition to the minutes where Resolution No. R17-06-20 “Keep Pearl River Beautiful” was voted on and passed by all, also to add that “the naming of the Pearl River alligator” was also mentioned during the meeting. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept the meeting minutes with the two changes added, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

John Schroder, State Representative running for State Treasurer addressed the mayor and the council.

Post Commander Joe Seeley with VFW Post 5174 spoke for several minutes about the sale of the VFW Building on Hwy. 3081. He also spoke about drop boxes for old American Flags.

TABLED ITEMS:

Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to remove from the table the Regular Council Meeting Minutes for May 16th that was tabled by Alderman Cutrer for changes at the last meeting. Alderman Cutrer made the motion, seconded by Alderman Walsh.

All in Favor. So Moved.

Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to accept the amended minutes from May 16, 2017. Motion made by Alderman Walsh and seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to accept the amended Ordinance #16-21-12A, “2017 Budget”, amendments to the Police Departments budget. Chief Jennings explained the requested changes. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Cutrer.

All in Favor. So Moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

COMMENTS & REPORTS:

Legislative Comments and reports

Alderman Cutrer spoke about the set times for the splash pad in the park and asked if they could be changed to come on at 9am instead of 11am and set to go off at 7pm instead of 6pm. The mayor stated that the water on the splash pad uses so much water that he had reduced the hours. Mayor McQueen said that he would allow it to come on at 10am and go off at 7pm. The Town Clerk will adjust the hours the next day.

Alderman Walsh reminded everyone about the red beans and rice cook-off in Slidell on Monday, August 7th. Proceeds go to Suicide Prevention and Crises.

Alderman Phillips talked about the 4th of July Celebration. He thanked all of the volunteers, the town crew and the town office staff who helped to made it a wonderful event. The Town has learned a lot and will make all the necessary adjustments next year to be sure that this event is even bigger and better.

MAYOR:

Mayor McQueen spoke about a report that he had gotten from T. Baker Smith, the same company who had inspected the bridge for Covington. The Hwy. 41 Spur Bridge is in worse condition than the Covington Bridge was in. Repairs will be extensive which will cost lots of money and could take 5 to 8 months to get opened back up to traffic. The mayor distributed the report to all of the aldermen. The discussion went on for several minutes; listen to CD available at the Town Hall.

Mayor McQueen updated the council on the bids for the sidewalks. He indicated that he is waiting on several more bids and will be getting with the engineer to look at the drainage for Holmns Street. He stated that he was waiting on the paper work to be signed so that they could get into Sullivan and start working. Alderman Phillips asked the mayor about the smoke tests on the sewage lines; the mayor said that Craddock Lane would be the first road to be smoke tested and should begin sometime in August.

Alderman Walsh asked the mayor about the restrooms in the park. The mayor said that he had contacted two local contractors for prices but only one had given a bid, he is still waiting to hear from the other. The mayor also said that a chipper plant would have to be installed for the bathrooms.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Chief Jennings announced that they had 68 arrests for the month of June. Chief Jennings asked that it be on the record that the Pearl River Police Department does not retaliate against anyone, they don't go after anyone unless they are breaking the law. He noted that the PD would be purchasing two speed limit signs that flash the speed of the approaching cars. He also said that these signs would have video cameras in them along with GPS and cost thirty-three hundred (\$3,300.00) each. The signs will be set at a certain speed to keep people from challenging the speed of the sign. The chief asked the mayor about the no-parking signs during school hours that are to be installed around the high school, the mayor said that he had installed several but had more on order.

The chief talked about the leak in the PD which was discovered to be condensation from the A/C unit. He also indicated that they still have a ceiling/roof leak in the bathroom.

PARISH COUNCIL:

No business

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

Peter Finger talked about the mistakes that were printed in the local paper regarding donations to upgrade the boat launch. He also announced that they now have insurance. The discussion went on for several more minutes; listen to CD available at Town Hall.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

No business

FIRE DISTRICT 11:

Not Present

SCHOOL BOARD:

Peggy Seeley spoke about the progress of the High School construction. She also spoke about some of the other local schools and some of the things these schools are doing to educate the children.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The mayor replied to a question regarding the I-59 bridge lane closure for inspections. Mayor McQueen also said that the sales tax was up in the town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:06 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18th DAY OF JULY 2017.

Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor