



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
WORKSHOP
AUGUST 17, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to the order by Mayor McQueen.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Aldermen Walsh, Phillips, Cutrer along with Mayor McQueen, Chief Jennings and Attorney Daigle. Absent: Aldermen McGregor, Bennett, Attorney Mathison

Alderman Walsh motioned to raise the clerk position off the floor for discussion, Alderman Phillips second, all in favor, so moved.

DISCUSSION:

At this time Mayor McQueen informed the council that he sent his Clerk home yesterday, due to an incident that had occurred that put the Town and the Mayor in jeopardy. Mayor McQueen informed the council that he recommended for her to send in a resignation letter by Tuesday or the council would have to vote on this matter as an executive decision at Tuesday night's special meeting. Alderman Phillips asked if the Mayor could expand on the situation, Mayor McQueen stated that Attorney Mathison informed him to wait on the details until the Town receives her resignation letter. Attorney Daigle along with Mayor McQueen informed the council that if they did want to sit down individually with the Mayor and get information they can do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget line items discussed. For more information see C.D.

Mayor McQueen informed the council that he will be working on getting the Council a copy of the budget monthly. Alderman Walsh suggested getting a daily ledger in motion for items put in the Aldermen's boxes. They believe this would be very beneficial to have in place.

Alderman Cutrer had questions about the Senior Citizens at the Community Center.

Alderman Walsh asked the Mayor and the councilmen to strongly consider raising the sewer/water rates. The councilmen along with Mayor McQueen and Attorney Daigle discussed several ways to go about increasing the water and sewer rates. . Alderman Walsh wishes to increase the sewer at this moment, in small increments of \$5.00 increase after January 1st. Alderman Phillips wants the council to think about how the public will feel with three to four increases over a short amount of time. Alderman Phillips suggest that in January have a larger increase of \$20.00. Mayor McQueen also asked the council to remember the Town will have a new sewer plant in place next year, which will require more money to maintain. Chief Jennings showed the councilmen his personal water and sewer bills from his home in Slidell. **(see attached)**

Mayor McQueen along with the Council discussed the Street Budget. Alderman Phillips asked if the Street Department receives any funding from the state. Mayor McQueen informed the council that the state does send a check to the Street Department for the grass upkeep along the Interstate. Aldermen Walsh had questions about the company that has been cutting down the trees along the roads.

Attorney Daigle and Chief Jennings discuss the Police Departments Budget.

Alderman Walsh questioned if the leak in the ceiling could get fixed due to mold. Mayor McQueen stated that he would look into getting that fixed.

Alderman Walsh addressed the council that she would be proposing an amendment to increase the Chief salary from \$48,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

Alderman Walsh asked the council to consider decreasing the Town Clerks salary from \$42,000 to \$40,000 a year. Alderman Walsh feels that the council could always come back and increase the salary if needed.

Alderman Cutrer asked if there would be a way to get all the information from Ricky's phone in case his phone broke. Mayor McQueen informed her that he does have majority of the information, but he will be sitting down with Ricky to make sure he is updated with any new contacts.

Alderman Walsh questioned the Clerk using their personal vehicles to do Town errands. Mayor McQueen informed the council he is in the process of getting a Town vehicle for any errands done for the Town.

Alderman Walsh proposed to the council a pay increase for the Town Attorney Matt Daigle and Attorney Tim Mathison.

Alderman Cutrer asked if the Town will be hiring in the Sewer and Water Department. Mayor McQueen informed the council there will be new hires for this year.

Alderman Phillips motioned to discuss a drainage problem to the floor, Alderman Cutrer seconded, all in favor, so moved

Alderman Phillips stated that with the new subdivision across from Creekside Jr High that the water over flowing the culverts and on to the roads. Alderman Phillips suggested getting larger culverts to help with the drainage. Mayor McQueen informed the council that the state controls those culverts, but he will call the state and discuss this matter with them. Alderman Phillips also informed the Mayor and the council that on Craddock Lane there is "black water" leaking on the street, he believes it is sewer. Mayor McQueen and the councilmen discusses drainage and culverts. Skip Phillips asked the councilmen if they are blowing out the culverts. Mayor McQueen informed him that the Street Department is working on that now.

Motion was made to adjourn by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

MEETING ADJOURNED
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17TH DAY OF AUGUST 2017.

Honorable David McQueen, Mayor