

**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to the order by Mayor McQueen at 7:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

INVOCATION:

Mayor McQueen also asked for special prayer for James Brewin Sr. The Invocation was given by Alderman Cutrer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor McQueen called for approval of minutes from the council meeting held on September 19, 2017. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman McGregor. All in favor. So moved.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Sharon Hewitt spoke in regards to the funding for the bridge on Spur 41. She informed the council and the audience that on October 4, 2017 she talked with secretary Wilson with the state D.O.T.D. on how the state recently secured 60 million dollars in additional federal funding because other states weren't able to use the money they were allocated. Mrs. Hewitt spoke about getting those funds to go towards the bridge now that we have the funding therefore the parish is working with the town to expedite this. She reinsured the audience that even though it will still be a long process the state is working with our Mayor, council members, parish council, district D.O.T.D. and state secretary who all are focusing on this bridge and making this a priority.

Mayor McQueen Thanked Sharon Hewitt, Gene Bellisario, and the D.O.T.D. for all their help with this process.

Gene Bellisario stated that the parish council and the parish government are working together through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to track out the land in order to make the bridge on Spur 41 wider. Mr. Bellisario informed the audience that this bridge is their highest priority and there is a good possibility that the bridge will be finish before the end of 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor McQueen spoke about the KPRB Committee, He placed Alderman Bennett to be over the flower beds and Alderman Cutrer over the Town Clean ups. Mayor McQueen asked for each Alderman to have at least three people under them (total of six) Mayor McQueen stated he will be the administrator until he appoints someone.

Alderman Phillips informed the council and the audience that he is working on a display near the red light and the rail road.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

Alderman Bennett spoke in place of Jessica Gauley, a local resident who does Kayak tours and the River Clean up, with update on the River Clean Up that took place on September 23rd. This year there was 6,000 pounds of trash pickup out of the river. There was 180 volunteers that come and participated, last year there was roughly 94 volunteers. This year Ms. Gauley called surrounding areas to get involved with a grand total of 1,006 volunteers that picked up 36 pounds of trash on the river spanning 490 miles with 32 locations. Alderman Bennett stated that her group won an award for the most unique piece of trash. She presented the plaque to the Mayor to hang up in the Town Hall.

Alderman Bennett reminded the council and the audience that the Trunk-or-Treat at Rotolo's will be October 27, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Alderman Bennett spoke about the 5K that will be on March 10, 2018 she informed the council and the audience that they are working on a new location and that anyone can register online. She also reminded the audience that the chili cook off will be February 24, 2018.

Alderman Cutrer gave an update on "Night Out Against Crimes" she informed the council and the audience that there was nearly 400 people that had attended. Alderman Cutrer stated that there was a total of 19 sponsors and 23 volunteers from Pearl River High School: The Bata club, honor society, and Rebels Against Destructive Decisions. R.A.D.D. did the dunking booth and the jail, which was made from the woodshop at PRHS, they collected a total of \$400.00 in donations. The ROTC, girl scouts, Eagle cheerleaders, Whitney Bank, Allstate, Security Company, Children's International, Ochsner's Flight Care with the helicopter, Fire Department with the smoke house and fire trucks, Inflatables Northshore who donated two bounce houses, Safe Light donated 500 hotdogs, Pizza Hut donated ten pizzas, AWG donated hotdogs, chips, and drinks, Jubilee donated the hotdog buns and also passed out chips drinks cookies and brown, and there was forty door prizes given out. Alderman Cutrer stated that the community involvement was awesome.

Bennett added that all the Town volunteers are amazing, they are always willing to come help. She also thanked the Town Crew who sets up Town events and helps clean up after.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

Mayor McQueen informed the council and the audience that Gracie Lane will be asphalted this week and there are seven more patches around town where drainage problems that had to be fixed. He informed the audience that there will be a bump on Gracie Lane, due to the asphalt being lower than the original road at this time. Mayor McQueen asked the council if they could think of any streets that need asphalt, if not he would like to asphalt Sawmill Creek in the back, due to two cul-de-sac's that have fallen apart. Alderman Walsh stated that she knows of some streets that are being washed out, and said that maybe the roads could be filled in with dirt or have side asphalt placed to stop the roads from being washed out. Mayor McQueen stated that he knows of a few places on Pine Street that will need fixing as well as Holmes Street will need four patches. Alderman McGregor asked about Peach Street, Mayor McQueen stated that nothing will be done on Peach Street until he gets a price on the drainage so that

the drainage, sidewalks, and the roads can be done all at the same time. Sidewalks will be placed down Peach Street on the right side of the road (going from Oak Street to Pine Street) there will be drainage place on both sides of Peach Street. Alderman Walsh asked if Hickory Street will be patched. Mayor McQueen replied that Hickory Street, Church Street, Holmes Street, and Honeysuckle Lane will be getting patched.

Alderman Bennett stated that she received a complaint about the new speedbumps that were placed, Mayor McQueen asked for anyone to turn any complaints to him in righting. He stated that he has not received any complaints, so far he has only received compliments about the new speedbumps. Alderman Walsh feels that the speedbumps has helped with slowing traffic down on Ann Street and Gum Street.

Mayor McQueen announced that the Town will be hosting a Movie Night at the park on November 17, 2017. The movie will be Free Birds, and he asked the council if it would be ok to serve free popcorn and charge for hotdogs and drinks.

Alderman Walsh asked about any updates on the water meters. Mayor McQueen stated that the Town has been reading the meters, and he will be speaking with Tim Lemoine to come up with water rates to introduce to the council.

Chief Jennings gave the arresting report for the month. 48 total arrest, of those arrest there was: 1 cruelty to nature, 3 DWI, 6 from other agency, 1 second degree battery, and 1 theft of a firearm Traffic citation total is 295 citation and only 130 of those citation was for speeding. Alderman Phillips asked Chief Jennings if he could inform he how many from the 130 speeding citation where on the interstate. Chief stated that he would pull that report for him, but he knows that 70 of those citations were wrote in the 70452 area. He also wanted the council to know that 45 citations were use of Cellphone in School Zone. Chief Jennings stated he does not want to right all these tickets, but there are still people speeding. Chief Jennings feels that he is doing the job he was elected to do, and that is to keep Pearl River safe. Mrs. Candy Lizana, from the audience, asked chief Jennings how many officers are on duty when school is being released. Chief Jennings replied saying there are three officers. Mrs. Lizana feels that someone is going to get hit on Peach Street. She stated that the high school kids are doing 40 down Peach Street, and with the Spur 41 Bridge closed the traffic has tripled. Chief Jennings informed her and the audience that he will place a police unit out there with a dummy and then randomly place a real officer. Mrs. Lizana believes that if a police officer could be on Peach Street once a week, giving warnings, would help. Alderman Bennett asked Chief Jennings about any plans for Halloween night with Sawmill Creek to prevent cars from getting towed. Chief Jennings stated that there will be "NO PARKING" signs place down Hudson Road on both side. If Hudson Road gets block the cars will be towed, because if there is a fire a fire truck will not be able to get down the road. Mayor McQueen asked Mr. Mike from the audience, Sawmill Creek Homeowners Association, if people are allowed to drive through the subdivision. Mr. Mike stated that cars are allowed to drive through, but the roads will be one way. Alderman Bennett asked if the Police Department could post the information on social media, and have the Town Share that information.

Jack Sessions spoke about a citation his son received.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

Peter Finger stated that they are in the process of doing a CEA with the school board. He thanked the council and the Mayor for giving them a place to meet. Mayor McQueen asked if he could give the Town

their contact information for the future. Mr. Finger informed the council and the audience about their special Meeting that will be held on Monday October 23, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

FIRE DISTRICT #11:

Mayor McQueen gave the Chiefs report: 56-EMS, 6-MVA, 2-structure fire, 4-public service, 1-dumpster fire, 1-trash fire, 1-grass fire, 1-vehicle fire, 5-Service with Good Intentions, 1-power line down, with a total of 78 calls.

Alderman Phillippe informed the audience that Fire District #11 has a smoke detector system that will come to your house and install smoke detectors or change the batteries free of charge in your home.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Mrs. Lola informed the council that there are two applications to discuss.

The first property is to be subdivided for Kim Sloan at 66197 Hwy 41 Spur. Mrs. Lola feels that this property was subdivided incorrectly in April of 2016. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended for this property to be subdivided into three lots, because Spur 41 is residential and Hwy 41 is commercial. Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to accept the subdividing of Kim Sloan property at 66197 Hwy 41 Spur. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. All in favor. So moved.

Mrs. Lola stated that the second subdividing property to discuss is for Matt Carrasco at 39080 McQueen Road. The recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission is to have lot one with the house 140x200 and the two lots to be 80x200.

Alderman Bennett stated that a resident showed concerns about having renters at this property. Mrs. Carrasco reassured the audience that they pay for grass cutting every two weeks, they do not allow pets, and there are strict guidelines for every renter that they have. She also stated that the lease is by monthly, therefore if they feel the need to evict any renter they can do so. Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to accept the subdividing of Matt Carrasco property at 39080 McQueen Road. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Phillips. All in favor. So moved.

Mayor McQueen addressed the Planning and Zoning Commission that there is a builder that came to him that is interested in some land. Mayor McQueen stated that he asked the builder to come speak with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor McQueen would like to look in to getting some 75x150 lots because without these smaller lots it puts the young families and the elderly that are retired out of the building market. He feels that the 90x300 or 90x200 lots are expensive.

Alderman Walsh asked if the Planning and Zoning Commission could get signs to place on the properties, to inform the residence of any subdividing or annexations. Mayor McQueen informed the Commission that there is money in the budget for the Planning and Zoning Commission, therefore they can order any signs.

SCHOOL BOARDS:

Not present

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Cindy Mayeux from the audience that lives on Barrington and Oak Street stated that there is a drainage hole that's dangerous.

CJ Mayeux from the audience asked about placing a flag pole in the middle of the roundabout. Alderman Phillips explained to the audience that the D.O.T.D does not allow flag poles or anything like that. The roundabout does have water and electrical lines ran to it so that a fountain or some sort can be placed there.

Alderman Walsh asked about getting street lights at the roundabout. Mayor McQueen stated that he will follow up with the D.O.T.D, but the lights were contracted with the roundabout through the D.O.T.D.

Alderman Walsh asked for any updates with FEMA. Mayor McQueen stated that he received some information from FEMA that he still has to go over and then he will give an update.

Milton Marshall from the audience asked Chief Jennings some question regarding a conference that was held in Las Vegas.

Charlie Franklin from the audience asked about getting sewer down Hwy 41 Spur.

Chief Jennings informed the audience that no one has contacted the Police Department about the Trunk-or-Treat so they will not be blocking the roads. Due to not having an Events Ordained there are no guidelines to follow. Chief Jennings and Alderman Bennett took this time to speak about future events.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 9: P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2017.


Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor