



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 16, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to the order by Mayor McQueen at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Caleb Atkins.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Alderman Galloway, Lee, Bennett, Chief Sessions along with Mayor McQueen, Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle. Absent: Alderman Walsh and Alderman McGregor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for March 19, 2019. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in favor. So moved.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Alderman Bennett opened a discussion in reference to cameras at the boat launch and wanted the Council to consider having new cameras being put at the boat launch with them having 24 hour surveillance seven days a week. Alderman Bennett felt this would stop the littering, vandalism and theft at the boat launch. Mayor McQueen notified the Council one camera is working but other components were needed to hookup the other camera. Mayor McQueen stated the last component was purchased for the camera and the Police Department was to do a follow up. Alderman Lee even suggested cameras at the new park bathrooms.

Mayor McQueen also mentioned to the Council since they were on the subject of cameras he wanted to know how the Council felt about videoing the Council Meetings. Mayor McQueen told the Council for a small amount of money the Town could purchase two cables and could go air the Council Meetings with St Tammany Parish at no cost but the meeting would not be live. It would be televised later in the week. Alderman Bennett, Alderman Lee and Alderman Galloway felt a "no cost" for the airing of the Council Meeting would be good as long as it did not cost the Town money.

Attorney Mathison did advise the Council that they needed to create some rules and procedures of how the meeting should be conducted when videoing.

Mayor McQueen stated that they can begin the process of obtaining the cables and setting everything up in the court room with the camera, then once the cables are in place he and the Council can get together to establish the guidelines.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution 2019-04-01- Relative to the LA Department of Environmental Quality Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit-MWPP**  
A motion was made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Meeting to amend Ordinance#2019-03-01 Audit Policies and Procedures-Sexual Harassment Policy. The Mayor told the Council this is one of many policies the town would be adopting. The Mayor told the Council all employees of the town would have to participate in the training.

Alderman Lee inquired about the training and how it was done.

Cheryl Schultheis, Town Clerk, stated that Sexual harassment Training consisted of a 1 hour training cd for all employees and a 2 hour training cd for Supervisors.

Attorney Mathison stated that it is a policy that is mandated by the state and an annual report of any incidents or no incidents had to be submitted to the state.

Mayor McQueen asked the audience if anyone wanted to speak on the policy. The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt the Sexual Harassment Policy ordinance.

A motion was made by Alderman Lee, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in Favor.**

**So Moved.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing to amend Ordinance #2019-03-02 2018 Final Budget Amendment.

Attorney Daigle gave a recap discussing the surplus for the 2018 final Budget.

**General** obtained a \$12,000.00 surplus due to the Ad Valor tax.

The **Police Department** obtained an \$ 84,000.00 surplus due to Sales tax, SRO monies, and \$30,000.00 money that was set aside from the 2017 Budget.

**Streets** received an \$85,000.00 surplus due to Sales tax.

The **Sewer Department** received \$174,000.00 surplus due to monies that was placed in the 2018 Budget to cover the principal and interest payments that might be due for the new sewer plant. The payments are not due until the sewer plant is completed.

The **Water Department** received an \$8,900 surplus due to conservative spending at the end of the year.

All departments added together gave the Town a \$360,000.00 surplus that was utilized in the 2019 Budget in different departments to complete needed projects.

Mayor McQueen asked if anyone had any questions after no response the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2019-03-02. A motion was made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing to amend Ordinance #2019-03-03 2019 Budget.

Attorney Daigle gave a recap of the monies and how the surpluses were distributed in different buckets of the 2019 Budget. An example given was surplus monies were placed in the Park bucket for the new bathrooms. Attorney Daigle also discussed how some of the revenues were adjusted so it would not cause the 2019 Budget to have as much as surplus this year.

Mayor McQueen asked if anyone had any questions after no response the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2019-03-03. Alderman Bennett made the motion, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor.**

**So Moved.**

Alderman Bennett asked if the Mayor knew when the Peach Street project would start.

Mayor McQueen stated he was waiting on the engineer and that he was working on it. Mayor McQueen stated he hoped to get the project going soon and was reaching out to the engineer to see if he had completed his part. Mayor McQueen mentioned that grant monies are available for the sidewalk part of the Peach project.

#### **LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

- **Alderman Lee –Easter Hunt**

Alderman Lee wanted to thank everyone that helped with the Easter Hunt. He wanted to give a special thanks to JNAC-Jesus Named Apostolic Church, the Jubilee Grocery store, his wife Maria, The Mayor's wife Karen McQueen, Police Chief's wife Taren Sessions, Alderman Galloway, and Tina Crawford for stuffing over 4000 Easter eggs for the hunt. Also he wanted to thank Mrs. Connie Johnson and Mrs. Ann Landry for all the work they have done over the years collecting baskets, grass, dye, toys and stuff animals to provide to the children at the Easter egg hunt every year.

- **Alderman Bennett- Easter Hunt, Celebration of Life for Mr Ledet, Town Clean-up**

Alderman Bennett agreed with Alderman Lee to thank everyone for their participation in the Easter program. She also thanked Texas Road House for all the free Kids Meals that were provided for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Alderman Bennett spoke of the Celebration of Life for Mr. Ledet's Memorial service. She said it was a beautiful turnout and Mr Ledet's family was very touch with the words spoken at the Memorial service.

She stated the Mr. Ledet's family would be attending the Town Christmas program since Mayor McQueen was dedicating it in honor of Mr. Ledet.

Alderman Bennett informed the public that for the Town clean-up 125 residents showed up to clean and they collected 78 bags of garbage that was picked up by Brian Phillips of St Tammany Residential Waste. The Judges for the Cleanest City awarded the Town of Pearl River 1st place in the District Cleanest City Contest. The State Judges will come on Friday April 26, 2019 to judge the town for State Cleanest City Contest.

Alderman Bennett spoke of the "Run the River 5K" that took place on Saturday, April 6, 2019. She stated a total of 76 people participated and a total of \$1400.00 was collected.

All proceeds went to the Pearl River High School in partnership with the Pearl River's Lions Club for scholarships and the classrooms. She also thanked Chief Sessions, Danny Hunter and the FFA Club for working the runner's route.

Alderman Bennett mentioned that the 4H Club was collecting farm supplies and monies for the Nebraska flood victims that they would deliver during spring break.

Alderman Bennett announced that Jessica Gauley was hosting a mini river clean-up on May 5, 2019 if anyone wanted to come out and support.

Alderman Bennett stated that the Lions Club said the Circus was a great success. She wanted to once again thank everyone that participates in the town programs. She then told the Council she wanted to personally thank Mr. Mike Winkler for helping with Mr. Ledet's Memorial, The 5 K Run, Easter Egg Hunt, and the Town clean-up.

- **Alderman Galloway- Good Friday**

Alderman invited everyone to participate in the JNAC- Jesus Name Apostolic Church Good Friday walk to represent Jesus Christ.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen announced the Annual Easter Program on April 13, 2019 was a great success and he wanted to thank everyone especially all the young people that turnout to help. He stated the he would be sending a thank you card to Mr. & Mrs. Ramey for their continued support with the Easter program. Mayor McQueen reported that the restrooms in the park were still under construction. He stated the women's restroom were complete and the men's restroom would be completed by the end of the week. Mayor McQueen gave an update on the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge. He informed the public that the Town had all the signatures for the Right a Ways but one and is hoping to obtain the last signature within the next week. Once the signature is obtained they will all be filed with the St Tammany Clerk of Court office. Mayor McQueen then announced the "Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast" is being held on May 2, 2019 at the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Training Center and tickets are available online or at the Town Hall for \$10.00 each. He then thanked the Pearl River Ministerial Alliance for all their hard work in sponsoring the breakfast.

Mayor McQueen then thanked everyone for participating in the March Town Clean-up and the Town crew for doing such a good job in keeping our town clean.

- **Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from March 1st to March 31, 2019 there were 192 tickets written and 46 warnings.

Chief Sessions thanked Danny Hunter for setting everything up for the 5K Run.

He then spoke of the 911 Issue with the Sheriff's Office and how the Pearl River Police department and Sheriff's office came to a settlement.

Chief Sessions told of the high speed chase he participated in and the capturing of the person that was shoplifting from local stores in Pearl River.

## **PARISH COUNCIL:**

Gene Bellisario: Gave a recap on the 911 Communication Center and dealings with the past Police Chief J.J. Jennings. He also stated that he and Michelle Blanchard of Council District 13 would be sponsoring a

program called Tax Meetings on April 29, 2019 and May 6, 2019 at the Slidell Auditorium at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

**RECREATION DISTRICT #5:**

Peter Finger spoke about the cameras at the boat landing and the permit for the fill from the Corp. of Engineers. He also discussed Recreation District #5 2018 Budget being in the green and was ready for activities to begin at the boat launch. He also stated that Recreation 5 decided to have to have a booth at the Honey Island Festival this year.

**FIRE DISTRICT #11:**

- 91 Calls
- 65-Medical Services
- 3-MVA
- 1M/A- Structure Fire
- 5- False Alarms
- 6- Good Intentions
- 3-Police Matters
- 3- Grass Fires
- 5- Dispatched /Cancelled

Chief Dockery spoke of the Mileage to roll forward process May 31, 2019. He stated the Public Hearing was at 6:30 pm and Meeting at 7:00pm.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**

Lola Monroe informed the Council they had a zoning application to rezone Peach Street from R-3 to R-1-A. The Public Hearing for it would be held on April 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Console Chambers

**SCHOOL BOARD:**

No New Business

FFA Chapter President Zachary Mayfield spoke in reference to the State FFA awards PRHS FFA members have received this year and the continued growing success of the program. He announced the FFA Banquet would be held on May 11, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Pearl River High School.

Alderman Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

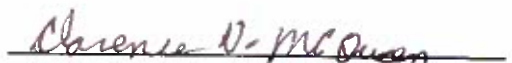
CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**AT 8:25 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 16TH DAY OF April 2019.**

  
Cheryl K. Schultheis

  
Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen