



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 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 Alderman Galloway.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Alderman Galloway, Walsh, McGregor, Lee, Bennett, Chief Sessions along with Mayor McQueen, Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle. Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor McQueen asked Council to make a motion to recess for an Executive Session. Alderman Bennett made the motion, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

Mayor McQueen called the Council Meeting back to order at 7:15 p.m. Mayor McQueen asks the Council to make a motion to authorize Attorney Keith Detweiler to negotiate a settlement as discussed in the executive session. Motion was made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman Lee.

Mayor McQueen called for roll call vote:

Alderman Galloway- Yea

Alderman Walsh- Yea

Alderman McGregor- Yea

Alderman Lee- Yea

Alderman Bennett- Yea

All in Favor. So Moved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

INTRODUCTION:

The Mayor introduced Ordinance 2019-03-01 Policies and Procedures which will be open to a public hearing at the next Council Meeting April 16, 2019.

The Mayor then introduced Ordinance Amending the Final 2018 Budget and Ordinance Amending the Final 2019 Budget. The Mayor then stated that both Ordinances would be open for discussion at the public hearing at the April 16, 2019 Council Meeting.

SPECIAL GUEST:

John Gindro announced that the Pearl River Lion's Club for a fundraiser would be sponsoring the Kelly Miller Traveling Circus on Sunday, April 14, 2019 located at Pump Slough Rd. Information regarding the circus can be found online at bestcircus.com website. Tickets will be available at two different locations. Joey Wren wanted to thank the Town, the Council, and the Pearl River Police Department for a successful Parade this year. He also mentioned moving the parade to Saturday instead of Sunday, and they would be doing some research with the businesses to see if it is feasible.

SPECIAL GUEST RECOGNITION:

Mayor McQueen and Alderman Bennett recognized two senior students from Pearl River High School for Exceptional & Outstanding Achievements for 2019: **Ashtyn Mason and Joseph Cantrell**

YARD OF THE QUARTER:

Alderman Bennett awarded the Yard of the Quarter to Mrs. Jacqueline McConnell located at 309 Garden Park Lane in Sawmill Creek Subdivision.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution giving Mayor McQueen the authority to sign for the purchase of right of ways for the New Hwy 41 Spur Bridge.**
A motion was made by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in Favor. So Moved.**
- **Tabled Item to be removed off the table.**
A motion was made by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in Favor. So Moved.**
- **To appoint the names on the list to the Planning & Zoning Commission**
Lola Monroe, Donna Christopher, Brad Smith, Pam King, and Kenneth Cooper.
A motion was made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman McGregor. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened the Public Meeting to amend Ordinance#2019-02-01 Livestock. He then explained that the ordinance would allow residents to keep up to six chickens, five rabbits, and keeping bees within the limits of the town. Only Creekside Jr. High FFA and Pearl River High School FFA would be allowed to construct suitable enclosures to keep farm animals on the premises for educational purposes, selling, raising and/or showing such animals.

Zachary Mayfield the Chapter President of FFA for Pearl River High School and the State Signal for the FFA Organization spoke of the benefits of having hands on experience with the animals and how it promotes leadership, personal growth and career success. The students of FFA are grateful to the council that they are taking into consideration to amend the livestock ordinance to allow the construction of the barn and to let the farm animals reside on the premises.

Sue Frierson voiced her concern of the smell from the pigs and the noise from roosters. The Council then notified her that the only animals this ordinance would let residents have is bees, six chickens and five rabbits. No pigs or roosters. The Council also ensures her that in subdivisions they have covenants and that this ordinance could not override them. Only Creekside Jr. High and Pearl River High School would have farm animals.

Boogie E. Yates spoke of the benefits this will give the students that don't have the capabilities to raise livestock at home. He talked about all the opportunities this will give students and scholarships that they can acquire thru FFA and other organizations. Because of these benefits he was able to go to Veterinary school and is the only Veterinary Neurologist in the State of Louisiana. He stated he was very proud of his blue and gold roots and thankful to the Council in their consideration to vote to amend this ordinance.

Virgil Phillips talked about accountability for the animals if they were to get loose. Alderman Bennett informed Mr. Phillips that it would be the same as if a dog were to get loose. Alderman Walsh stated that if you own any animals they should remain on your property. Alderman Lee quoted the Animal Control Ordinance 16-22-03. Mr. Phillips thanked the Council.

Richard Schaffer of FFA talked about his daughter showing animals and how it has taught her responsibility. That she is a small business owner at 16 she has a product, she sells it, she does finances, and keeps up with her expenses. He spoke of other schools that have this in place for their students and how it would help the students at our schools if the Council would amend the Livestock Ordinance.

Billy Mayfield the FFA Advisor of Pearl River High asks for the Council to think of how many kids this will impact by amending this ordinance. He told the Council since the discussion of amending this Ordinance he has been offered donations of concrete and poles to help in the building of the school barn. He told the Council that he is begging that they amend this ordinance.

Gene Bellisario asked the Council who is control officer or the code enforcement for Planning & Zoning? Mayor McQueen replied it was him and the Pearl River Police Department.

Alderman Bennett spoke highly of the FFA Organization and how amending this Ordinance she felt was a win for both sides.

Alderman McGregor thanked everyone for coming out to speak. He told how FFA students are amazed about growing a garden instead of purchasing it from a store.

Alderman Walsh made a motion to adopt amendment A for discussion purposes. No second was made; so motion died.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt the amended livestock 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 #2019-02-02 Amendment to Reduced Utility Rates- \$20,000.00 and Amendment A \$18,000.00, Amendment B \$17,000.00. Mayor McQueen notified the Council that a total of twenty-two (22) applications have been reviewed. Seven (7) of the applications have passed. Three (3) are being reviewed and are under \$15,000.00. One (1) is in the \$16,000.00 to \$17,000.00 category. One (1) is in the \$17,000.00 to \$18,000.00 category. Three (3) are in the \$18,000.00 to \$ 19,000.00 category. Two (2) are in the \$19,000.00 to \$20,000.00 category and Five (5) are over the \$20,000.00 category. Mayor McQueen advised the Council to make a decision to raise the \$15,000.00 amount that was passed on the original ordinance. He stated it was too low and not enough applicants were qualifying due to it.

Alderman Bennett asked the audience if they had anything to say in reference to the ordinance.

Bradley Pellegrin asked the Council if they had taken into consideration the Veterans and giving them a discount.

Alderman Bennett answered Mr. Pellegrin and said she spoke to both the Mayor and Attorney Mathison. They both told her that the Louisiana Constitution lets them set up programs for the needy. Unfortunately if he did not meet the criteria for the discount he would not qualify for the reduced rate. She then commended Mr. Pellegrin for his service in the armed forces.

Mike Moore asked on behalf on Mr. Henry Garretson of McQueen Road if the water/sewer bill would reflect the water usage on the bill. The Mayor and Alderman Bennett informed him that since the water is being metered the bill will show the water usage in gallons.

Mayor McQueen asked the audience if there was anyone else that wanted to speak. He then told the Council to make a decision on which amendment they wanted to adopt.

Alderman McGregor stated he would like to amend the ordinance to \$20,000.00.

Alderman Lee stated he felt that the ordinance should be amended to \$18,000.00 at this time. He then suggested after several months of figures the Council could take another look at it.

Alderman Bennett also agreed to \$18,000.00 and to look at it after a couple of months.

Alderman McGregor asked if they would change it in two months to \$20,000.00.

Alderman Bennett stated maybe in six months they would look at it again.

Attorney Daigle informed the Council that he compared February 2018 usage and amount of money that was taken in to the metered month of February 2019. After review it showed that the revenue income was more with the meter rate in February 2019 than flat rate February 2018. He felt we should watch over the next couple of months just to see how it comes out.

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to adopt Amendment A in the amount of \$18,000.00. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept Amendment A in the amount of \$18,000.00, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

Mayor McQueen called for a motion to amend Ordinance #2019-02-02 as amended. Alderman Bennett made the motion, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor.**

So Moved.

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Meeting for the discussion of Municipal Small Separate Storm Systems (MS4).

Attorney Mathison explained what the MS4 was and spoke of the process to obtain the MS4 Permit. He then explained the Notice of Intent and made reference to the Public Hearing that is open for public comment. He asked if anyone had any questions. One member of the audience asked if this is done on a yearly basis at which time Attorney Mathison responded, "No this is done every five (5) years."

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

- **Alderman Lee – FFA Alumni Membership**
Alderman Lee announced that the Pearl River FFA will be taking applications for the Alumni membership and to contact Mr. Fisher. They will be holding a meeting on March 26, 2019.
- **Alderman Bennett- Celebration of Life for Mr Ledet, Cleanest City Contest & Run the River 5K**
Alderman Bennett spoke of the work that was being done for the Celebration of Life for Mr. Ledet's memorial that will take place at the Pearl River High School Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. She spoke of the contributions made by Mayor McQueen, Mr. Michael Winkler, Victoria Galloway and herself to ensure the memorial will be a success. Alderman Bennett informed the public that the Judges for the Cleanest City will be coming in tomorrow March 20, 2019 to judge our town and how nice our town looked due to all the hard work the Town crew has done.
Alderman Bennett reminded everyone of the "Run The River 5K" that will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Pearl River Lion's Club. Registration is still available online at active.com and the Run the River t-shirts were made in memory of Mr. Ledet. All proceeds will go to Pearl River High School in partnership with the Pearl River Lion's Club for scholarships and for the classrooms.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen announced the Annual Easter Program will be on April 13, 2019 at the James Lavigne Pearl River Park with registration starting at 9:00 am.

Mayor McQueen gave an update on the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge. He informed the public that now with the Resolution in place the process of purchasing the properties to build the new bridge can begin. He stated the Town Hall is in contact with the owners and are setting up appointments to complete the process.

Mayor McQueen reported that the restrooms were in place and being worked on. He stated he hoped to have them ready for the Easter Program.

Mayor McQueen then addressed the Council and asked if they decided on a date for the Fourth of July Program.

Attorney Mathison gave an update in reference to videoing the Council Meetings. He stated that Mayor McQueen and he met with Ronnie Simpson and he sent an e-mail out to the Council in reference to the meeting. Ronnie Simpson sent Daniel Zechnelley to the Town Hall to look over our equipment and advise the set-up of the videoing.

Mayor McQueen advised the Council that before videoing could begin a set of rules needed to be established by the Council. He then notified the public that the Council Meeting would be run by Robert Rules Order and that the only time someone could speak is if they are recognized by the Council due to it being televised.

Alderman Walsh explained there were different avenues the Council could use in getting the videoing of the Council Meetings to the public. She stated she felt she would rather see the Town put it out rather than someone else.

Teddy Penton asked if the video would be edited in any way.

Alderman Walsh stated that the video would be shown as recorded by the Town.

Alderman Bennett stated that there would be no editing or cropping done to the video.

Loresa Hoyt asked the Council if they knew the number of people that would be watching the video. She felt that the Town should not invest a lot of money in this and that they were some other cost effective ways the Town could go.

Mayor McQueen stated this videoing was up to the Council and that they could decide on the way they wanted to approach it.

Debbie Hebert stated she felt that drainage issues needed to be address before the Town invested in video access of the Council Meetings.

Mayor McQueen informed the public of Mr. Ledet's Memorial on March 23, 2019 from 11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the Town Clean-up on March 30, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

- **Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from February 1st to February 28, 2019 there were 141 tickets written, 46 arrest and 5 verbal warnings.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Gene Bellisario: Gave a recap on the progress of the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge.

He stated that he would be reading a proclamation for Mr. Ledet's Memorial at the Pearl River High School.

He talked also of false alarms and how it affects the PIL rating.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

No New Business

FIRE DISTRICT #11:

75 Calls

52-Medical Services

- 5-MVA
- 2- Structure Fire
- 3- False Alarms
- 6- Good Intent
- 1-Police Matters
- 3- Grass Fires
- 2- Calls

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:
No New Business

SCHOOL BOARD:

Michael Winkler wanted to thank Gene Bellisario for his Proclamation for Mr. Ledet which he read at the St Tammany Council.

He spoke about the School Board and where monies are applied to. He stated that the Town of Pearl River is very fortunate because some schools are still in portables. He informed the Council that the School Board is now offering \$332,000.00 for sidewalks at various schools. He will inform the Council as soon as he obtains more details.

Bradley Pellegrin: VFW News

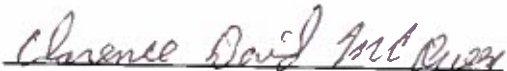
The VFW will be presenting two awards at the Pearl River High School on April 16, 2019. The VFW is still serving fish dinners for lent at the Pearl River Lion's Club.

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

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 9:00 P.M.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.**


Cheryl K. Schultheis


Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen