



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
August 20, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for July 16, 2019. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman McGregor. **All in favor. So moved.**

Alderman Walsh made a motion to take July 29, 2019 Special Council Meeting Minute off the floor, seconded by Alderman Lee. Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for July 29, 2019 Special Council Meeting. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

Alderman Walsh made a motion to take August 6, 2019 Special Council Meeting Minute off the floor, seconded by Alderman Bennett. Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for August 6, 2019 Special Council Meeting. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in favor. So moved.**

SPECIAL GUEST:

Tracey Powell, candidate for Slidell City Court Judge
John Keller, candidate 22nd JDC Div. F
Mary Dubuisson, candidate for State Representative

YARD OF THE QUARTER:

Alderman Bennett awarded the Yard of the Quarter to John, Jenni and Kylie Hindman located at 64582 Richland Drive.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Fire District Appointment- Mayor McQueen notified the Council that Mr. Don Thanars is stepping down from the Fire Board and the Council needs to come up with a nominee.

INTRODUCTION:

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance 20-08-19-2 Minimum Lot Size in Residential Zones.

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance 20-08-19-1 Pearl Parkway Speed Limit Increase.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to take Ordinance 2019-03-03-A 2019 Revised Budget off the floor. Alderman Walsh made the motion to take the Revised Budget off the floor, seconded by Alderman Bennett.

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance 2019-03-03-A Revised 2019 Budget. Mayor McQueen informed the public that a Public Hearing will be held on the Ordinances that were introduced tonight on September 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 16-07-19-01 Littering to the floor and the Council.

DISCUSSION:

- **Alderman Bennett** stated she felt the penalty to pay the \$100.00 fine and do community service was more than fair for the ordinance violation. She noted she has done numerous Town Clean-up's in the past and feels community service should be part of the fine to show individuals what it takes to keep the Town Clean.
- **Alderman Walsh** agreed that doing the community service would drive it home and make the individual not want to litter when they to pick up trash.
- **Alderman Galloway** stated she was good with the Community Service but was concerned with the \$100.00 fine. She felt parents would be penalized paying the fine.
- **Attorney Daigle** felt the Judge should be able to use his discretion to determine the penalty for the violation.
- **Alderman McGregor** asked if a citizen was a witness to a violation of this ordinance would they come to the Town to report and be a witness.
- **Mayor McQueen** responded yes it would be the same as Justice Peace Court.
- **Attorney Daigle** stated in part (B) A person may be found guilty and sentenced under this Section although commission of the offense did not occur in the presence of an enforcement officer if the evidence presented to the court establishes that the defendant has committed the offense.

- **Mayor McQueen** stated some of the main reasons why he wanted this ordinance to be passed was that the Town did not have an ordinance for littering in place, to make the violators appear in our court so the Town would receive the monies from the fines instead of the parish and that the violators would have to do community service for the Town.
- **Brian Phillips of St. Tammany Residential Waste** asked how this affects the businesses that collect garbage.
- **Mayor McQueen** stated if the garbage is around or near the dumpster it is the garbage collector's responsibility to clean it up.
- **Brian Phillips** voiced his concerns about the residents that don't put all their trash in their garbage cans, and who would be responsible for the trash.

After extensive discussion Mayor McQueen asked the Council if they had any more to add to the discussion. Alderman Walsh made a motion to table the ordinance until the next Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 16-07-19-02 Sewer Use Prohibition- Port-O-Lets to the floor and the Council.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor McQueen explained this ordinance will prohibited companies from dumping straight in to the Town sewer. If the companies get caught they will have to come before the Town's court.

Alderman Bennett made a motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Galloway. **All in favor. So moved.**

2018 Audit Presentation:

Becky Hammond with CRI gave the 2018 Audit report noting that the Town is showing major improvement from the following years.

Becky Hammond was pleased to report the Town's financial position. The Town has enough equity that if it didn't receive any income the Town could run for nine (9) months.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

- **Alderman Walsh- Ordinance 62-08 Street Regulations**
Alderman Walsh asked Attorney Mathison instead of making a new ordinance for Pearl Parkway Speed Limit Increase if the Council could just amend Ordinance 62-08 Street Regulations. Attorney Mathison stated yes the Council could do that.
Alderman Walsh asked if the Town would contact Asplundh to clean up the limbs that they cut along Hwy 11.

- Alderman Lee- Pearl River Community Yard Sale**
 Alderman Lee notified the Council that the Fourth of July committee will be holding a Community Yard Sale on Saturday November the 9, 2019 in front the Town Hall and surrounding areas of the Town.
 Alderman Lee thanked the Street Crew for putting up the signs and Jack Sessions for enforcing the new route on Peach Street. He stated the new route was working in keeping the students safe when walking home.
- Alderman Bennett- The Honey Island Swamp Festival**
 Alderman Bennett talked about the Crossing Guard in reference to Creekside and Pearl River School.
 Alderman Bennett notified the Council there will be a Softball Tournament Benefit at Poitevent Park Saturday August 24, 2019 for a local veteran Theresa Smith Weaver that was in a car accident.
 Alderman Bennett stated that the Honey Island Swamp Festival is in high gear getting ready for Saturday, September 14, 2019, and she also noted that the River Clean-up would be held September 21, 2019.
 Alderman Bennett notified the Council that Mr. Ernie Andrus a 96 year old World War veteran will be coming back to Pearl River in February 2020.
 Alderman Bennett notified the Council she was selected for the Environmental Leadership Program for the State which is a branch of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from July 1st to July 31, 2019 there were 683 calls, 116 citations written, 25 warnings and 17 arrests.
 Chief Sessions notified the Council that the Police Department applied for a Grant for Bullet Proof Vest and received \$4500.00 from the grant.
 Chief Sessions announced the "Night out Against Crime" would be held on October 18, 2019.
- Mayor**

Mayor McQueen notified the Council the old Sewer Plant was completed with the upgrades and repairs and both plants were up and running as of today.
 Mayor McQueen notified the Council he was taking bids for asphalt. He has received two bids and is waiting on the third one. One of the projects that he wants done is to asphalt the parking lot by the park so handicapped individual will have an easier access to the park.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Gene Bellisario stated the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge had some issues with three of the five parcels can be cured by notarial Act(s) of Correction. These only have to be signed by Tim Mathison as the Notary. And two parcels have succession/estate issues (Authority of Succession to sell for one parcel and opening of succession for second parcel).

Worst case scenario remains 90 days if expropriation is needed. It has been represented to CSRS that expropriation is not looked upon favorably, and pressure is being applied to CSRS to remedy quickly.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

Peter Finger stated 5th District is looking for a commercial moveable light bank and applications are available for anyone that wants to be member of 5th District.

FIRE DISTRICT #11:

54 – EMS Transport -43
6-MVA
4- Good Intent
4- Grass Fires
5- Dispatched /Cancelled
2-False Alarm
2- Gas Leak/Spill
8-Public Assist
2-Police Matter
75- Total

Jack Dockery informed the Council that Mr. Thanars was stepping down from the Board. He also informed the Council that a Nuisance Alarm Ordinance was passed by the Parish and by the Fire Board. Chief Dockery asked the Council to read over the ordinance and take in to consideration in adopting the ordinance.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Donna Christopher informed the Council that the Planning and Zoning Board approved the subdividing application for the Shane Fleming property located on the corner of Pine Street and Calhoun Street and made a recommendation to the Council.

Mayor McQueen stated there was a recommendation on the floor.
Alderman Bennett made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Alderman McGregor.
All in Favor. So Moved.

SCHOOL BOARD:

Mike Winkler spoke about the parking for the Pearl River High School and Creekside Jr. High.

Executive Session:

Casey Adams v. Town of Pearl River, et al, NO. 2017-11692C, 22nd Judicial District Court

Alderman Bennett made the motioned to get to executive session, seconded by Alderman Walsh.