



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 17, 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 Bennett.

**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 August 20, 2019. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman McGregor. **All in favor. So moved.**

Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for September 9, 2019. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

**SPECIAL GUEST:**

Hans Liljeberg, Candidate Louisiana Supreme Court  
Heide Alejandro-Smith, Candidate State House District 90  
Floyd Trascher, Parish Council District 9

**FISCAL YEAR 2018 AUDIT ACCEPTANCE:**

Mayor McQueen asked the council to make a motion to accept the 2018 Fiscal Year Audit presented by Becky Hammond of CRI at the August 20, 2019 Council Meeting. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

#### **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

**Planning Commission Report** – Alderman Walsh informed the Council that Terry Parker with the Planning & Zoning Commission created a “Synopsis Tool” to submit to the Council after a meeting. This tool is to keep the Council informed and updated on the applications submitted to the commission. Mayor McQueen stated he liked the idea that he could keep a folder with the Planning & Zoning information for the next administration.

Alderman Bennett asked Terry Parker if they would get this every time they had a meeting. Terry Parker stated after every Planning & Zoning meeting she would create it and let the Commission look it over then send it to the Council so they could be prepared to take action on it at the next Council Meeting. Donna Christopher stated the Planning & Zoning was not in agreement on it. She felt the minutes were all the Council needed because the minutes are the official record not a report from Terry Porter.

Alderman Lee stated he thought it would be a useful tool.

Alderman Galloway agreed she thought it was a good idea.

Alderman Walsh proposed a resolution to accept the Planning & Zoning Synopsis Tool report, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

**Honey Island Museum-** Mayor McQueen updated the Council on the new internet service that was put in at the museum to service the Community Center, Recreation District 5, and the Museum. He stated by updating the internet service it saved the Town 240.00 a month.

**Mike Hager- Town-wide Garden Program-** Mike Hager, of the Sawmill Creek Home Owners Association Board, stated his concern for the flowerbed located on the corner of Hudson and Hwy 41. He asked the Council to address the appearance and the prevention of the flowerbed washing into the drainage ditch. Mayor McQueen acknowledged his concerns and stated that he would address the flowerbed.

**Virgil Phillips-** Virgil Phillips spoke with the Mayor and the Council on the flowerbeds and trees along Hwy 3081.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- **Mayor McQueen** stated the ordinance was tabled at the August 20, 2019 Council Meeting and asked the Council if they were ready to vote on it.
- **Alderman Lee** stated he felt the ordinance needed more work to protect business owners from trash that is thrown in their parking lot. He felt some of the wording in the ordinance needed to be changed.
- **Alderman Galloway** felt a warning should be issued first and then a ticket if the problem of littering wasn't resolved.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion. Alderman Lee made a motion to table the ordinance until the next Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in favor. So moved.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 20-08-19 (2) Minimum Lot Size 90x 130 to the floor and the Council.

**DISCUSSION:**

- **Mayor McQueen** explained the minimum lot size 90 x 130 was passed but according to Municode it wasn't. He then stated it was up to the Council to decide if they wanted to adopt the minimum lot size 90 x 130.
- **Alderman Walsh** stated the ordinance was passed and a copy of it was put in the Volume 5 Book that is given out to the Planning & Zoning Commission. A copy of the ordinance as of today is not in the Official Ordinance Book in the safe. In 2003 the first Black Codified book the ordinance was never sent in because the ordinance has never been in the Official Ordinance book. Then adopted in 2005 the Volume 5 Book we use today states the 130 lots. So it was an oversight on the Town when we then sent the 2003 and 2005 to Municode the ordinance never got sent because it was not in the Official Book of Ordinances.
- **Alderman Lee** asked if the Council didn't do anything about it would the lots stay 90 x 120.
- **Mayor McQueen** stated yes they would stay as 90 x 120 lots. He then asked if anyone in the audience had anything to say on this if not he would close the Public Hearing and open for discussion to the Council.
- **Alderman Lee** stated he was in favor of the 90 x 120 lot size. He felt it would make it easier for a resident to build a house.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion. Alderman Bennett made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Alderman Galloway. Mayor McQueen called for a Roll Call Vote.

**Roll Call Vote**

Alderman Galloway- Nay  
Alderman Walsh-Nay  
Alderman McGregor-Nay  
Alderman Lee-Nay  
Alderman Bennett-Nay

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 18-11-01A Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Amendment to the floor and the Council.

**DISCUSSION:**

- **Mayor McQueen** informed the audience and the Council that the budget needed to be amended in order to move the money from the Community Donations line into the Holiday Program line to be able to use it. He then stated that the amount of \$ 50,000.00 had to be moved from the Money Market to the Police Department's Claims line due to the decision made in the last Executive Session. He also noted that money had to be moved around in Streets to put in the New Streets and Repairs budget line in order to do the asphalt projects that the Town had lined up.

- **Alderman Bennett** asked if the money for the Street Asphalt Projects were coming from the Money Market.
- **Attorney Daigle** stated no and noted the areas where the money was taken from different buckets in the Street budget in order to put in the New Streets and Repairs line of the budget.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion.

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 62-08A Speed Limit Increase- Pearl Parkway to the floor and the Council.

#### **Discussion:**

- **David Newman** owner of Newman Transport spoke about the various speed limits of other streets similar to Pearl Parkway noting T. J. Smith with a speed limit of 45 mph and the school zone on Hwy 11 by Little Pearl to be 35 mph. He felt the 25 mph speed limit should be raised to 35 mph and asked the Council to consider raising it.
- **Alderman Bennett** told Mr. Newman she agreed with him and even spoke to some of the other businesses along Pearl Parkway one of them being the AWG who also agreed with increasing the speed limit.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion.

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

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

- **Alderman Galloway- Fall Display**  
Alderman Galloway notified the Council of the Fall Display Contest that she was getting the local businesses to participate in. The business would create a fall display with hay and fall décor in front of their businesses. The display would need to be up by October 5th and would have to be taken down by November the 30<sup>th</sup>. A sign can be purchased from Mirror Image to be placed in the display in order for the judges to judge it. The winners would be recognized at the Council Meeting.
- **Alderman Walsh – Facebook Page**  
Alderman Walsh thanked the Mayor for addressing the limbs along Hwy 11. She noted the Pearl River Community Yard/Craft Sale now had a Facebook page and asked everyone to please go on Facebook to like it and share it. She spoke of the vending spaces in front of Town Hall starting at \$20.00 a booth and \$30.00 for a booth with electricity.  
**Brian Phillips** owner of St. Tammany Residential Waste asked the Council if it would be okay to set up a booth to giveaway free drinks. The Council said yes and thanked him for his commitment to the Town.  
Alderman Walsh then stated that if you have a child's car seat that you no longer needed you could bring up to two of them to Wal-Mart to receive a thirty dollar gift certificate for each car seat. She notified the audience that Wal-Mart partnered with another company in order to keep the car seats out of the landfills. Alderman Walsh asked for an update about the lot located

on Calhoun Street. She asked if a certified letter was sent. **Attorney Mathison** told her the letter was and they had thirty days in which to comply. Alderman Walsh then asked if the Town would take action on it and put a lien against the property to clean it up if it wasn't done.

**Attorney Mathison** notified Alderman Walsh if the Mayor approves it the Town would get three bidders to bid on it and the Town would accept the lowest bidder to clean the property if the owner doesn't take action on it.

Alderman Walsh announced the opening of two new restaurants, Two Blessed Girls and Yum Yum's in Pearl River.

- **Alderman Lee- Pearl River Community Yard/ Craft Sale**

Alderman Lee reminded the Council of the Community Yard/ Craft Sale on Saturday, November 9, 2019 in front the Town Hall and surrounding areas of the Town and it will be held from 7:00 am to 2:00pm.

- **Alderman Bennett- Softball Tournament Benefit**

Alderman Bennett thanked everyone that helped and attended the Softball Tournament Benefit at Poitevent Park that was held on Saturday August 24, 2019 for a local veteran Theresa Smith Weaver that was in a car accident.

Alderman Bennett notified the Council of the Pearl River High School Homecoming game on Friday night September 20, 2019 to come out and support our High School Rebels. She noted the River Clean-up was going to be held this Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 9:00 am behind the Fish House with music and free food for all the volunteers, and that Trunk or Treat would be held on Friday, October 25, 2019.

She thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the Honey Island Swamp and stated once the figures were in she would give a report to the Council.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- **Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31, 2019 there were calls, 134 citations written, 17 warnings and 25 arrests.

Chief Sessions noted that he felt the Honey Island Swamp Festival went perfectly and without a hitch.

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen thanked Tim Bennett for supplying the port-o-lets and washing stations at no cost to the Town of Pearl River for the Fourth of July Celebration and for the Honey Island Swamp Festival.

Mayor McQueen announced to the Council that he ordered new signs to replace the old signs at the entrances of the Town.

Mayor McQueen notified the Council he received the three bids for the asphaltting. The streets to be done are part of Josephine, all of Willis Alley, Church Street, the parking lot by the park so that handicapped individuals will have an easier access to the park, and the parking lot in front of the Town Hall. He also stated light poles would be added to the front parking lot.

Mayor McQueen informed the Council that he was meeting with the Town engineer Oscar Boudreaux in the morning in reference to the new subdivision Taylor Farms. He stated that he felt the Town could carry the water and drainage but was concerned with the sewer part due to an undersized 6" line going to the Sewer plant that would carry the new subdivision.

Mayor McQueen told the Council that the phone company moved the pedestals on Peach Street but was waiting for the report from J.V. Burkes.

Mayor McQueen asked everyone to keep Alderman Galloway and her family in their prayers for the loss of their mother. He stated that she was a sweet person and he knew Mrs. Connie all his life. He stated what a great asset she was to the Town during the Christmas Program with over 300 stockings for the children and the Easter program providing Easter baskets, grass, stuff animals, and toys for each child that attended. He told everyone that she did this out of the goodness of her heart and out of her own pocket with her friend Mrs. Ann. He stated that she will be truly missed by everyone and the Town.

Alderman Galloway thanked the Mayor and told every one of the non –profit organization called "Connie Cares" to continue the work of her mother in the Christmas program, Easter program, Coat Drive and Book Bag Drive. She also thanked the Mayor for coming to her church and doing a Proclamation for her mother and Mrs. Ann.

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

None

**RECREATION DISTRICT #5:**

Peter Finger of 5<sup>th</sup> District thanked the Mayor for addressing the Wi-Fi problem.

**FIRE DISTRICT #11:**

62 – EMS

4-MVA

9- Good Intent

2- Grass Fires/ Rubbish

11- Dispatched /Cancelled

2-False Alarm

1- Gas Leak/Spill

91- Total

Jack Dockery asked if anyone could recommend a licensed general contractor for a face lift on the outside of the Fire Station located on Pine Street Extension.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**

Donna Christopher informed the Council that the Planning and Zoning Board was having a Public Hearing on October 1, 2019 at 6:30pm in reference to a tentative plan submitted by Jeff Breland for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Subdivision called Taylor Farms.

**SCHOOL BOARD:**


None

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

CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED  
AT 9:05 P.M.  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST 2019.

  
Cheryl K. Schultheis

  
Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen