



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
December 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, McGregor, Lee, Bennett, Chief Sessions, along with Mayor McQueen, Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle. Absent: Alderman Walsh

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

SPECIAL GUEST:

Mayor McQueen introduced Rick and Terry Hughes the new owners of Bien Venue located at 64245 Hwy 3081. Terry Hughes stated he wanted to thank everyone for attending the grand opening and he looks forward to working with the Town of Pearl River.

HWY 41 SPUR BRIDGE:

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to add Shannon Davis "Director of Public Works" to the Agenda to speak in reference to the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman McGregor. **All in favor. So moved.**

Shannon Davis gave a synopsis on the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge listing the process that needs to occur in order for the new bridge to be built and that it should go out for bid on March 11, 2020. Alderman Bennett asked how long would it exactly take from the bid process to the beginning of the building process.

Shannon Davis stated it could take up to four months before the building process starts. Alderman Bennett stated then the Bridge would not be completed until 2021.

Mayor McQueen stated the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge has been closed since April 24, 2017 making April 2020 three years. Mayor McQueen told Shannon Davis that the Town had purchased all the properties and filed them with the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court. Mayor McQueen then personally thanked State Senator Sharon Hewitt for getting all the funding in place for the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge.

The Alderman discussed their further frustration with the process of replacing the bridge.

State Senator Sharon Hewitt apologized from the State of Louisiana to the Council and Mayor McQueen for this process being so difficult for the Town.

State Representative Mary DuBussion suggested that Senator Sharon Hewitt, Mayor McQueen, and herself schedule a meeting with the newly elected Parish President Mike Cooper to sit down and discuss what a high priority project the bridge is for Pearl River.

Mayor McQueen thanked State Senator Sharon Hewitt and State Representative Mary DuBussion for attending the Council Meeting and their help on the Spur 41 Bridge.

PLANNING & ZONING APPOINTEES:

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to accept the new appointee Antoinette Trascher as a member. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accepted, seconded by Alderman Galloway.

All in favor. So moved.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to accept the new appointee Lisa Eyster as an alternate. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accepted, seconded by Alderman McGregor.

All in favor. So moved.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION:

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance No. 17-12-19 – An Ordinance adopting amendments to the Town Municipal Handbook. A public hearing will be held on January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing Ordinance No. 18-11-01(B) – FY 2019 Budget Amendment to the floor and the Council.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion. Alderman Bennett made a motion to accepted, seconded by Alderman McGregor. **All in favor. So moved.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing Ordinance No. 19-11-19 – FY 2020 Budget to the floor and the Council.

Alderman Lee stated he did not feel comforted with some of the projections for the 2020 budget he would like to be more conservative. He stated he would be a no vote because he felt the budget would fall short and would have to depend on the Money Market.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion. Alderman McGregor made a motion to accepted, seconded by Alderman Bennett. Mayor McQueen Called for a Roll Call Vote.

Yea - Alderman Galloway, McGregor, and Bennett

Nay- Alderman Lee.

Absent- Alderman Walsh

So Moved.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

- **Alderman Bennett-Thanksgiving**

Alderman Bennett informed the Council that for Thanksgiving Day they fed six families.

She told the Council about a group of bands that get together each year and raise money to buy gifts cards to give to families for food.

Alderman Bennett also notified the Council that A-1 Wrecker will be holding their "Annual Toy Giveaway" December 21, 2019 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The FFA Alumni will hold their "Turkey Shoot" at the Park and Ride Saturday December 21, 2019

Alderman Bennett stated to the Council that the last day for blankets donations for the Animal Shelter would be Thursday because the PRHS FFA would be delivering them on Friday.

She told the Council that she and Alderman McGregor met with the Riverside School and the St. Tammany School Board to start a recycling program in January.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- **Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from November 1st to November 30, 2019 there were 514 calls, 159 citations written, 29 warnings, 46 arrests and 9 drug arrests.

Chief Sessions thanked his wife Taren Sessions for helping stuff over 300 stockings for the Christmas Program with JNAC.

Chief Sessions told the Council of the bike giveaway for Christmas for 200 students at the Alton School.

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen thanked the Police Department for all the work they do and for helping him and the Town with all the programs and events each year.

Mayor McQueen notified the Council that the Town's parking lot was completed with new lighting and asphalt and how nice it looked. He also stated the parking lot at the park was asphalted and now he was working on sidewalks to make it handicapped accessible.

Mayor McQueen spoke of the Christmas Program that was held on Friday, December 6, 2019 and what a great success it was. He thanked everyone who participated in the Christmas Program and gave a special thanks to his wife Karen McQueen, Jessica Hanna, Deborah Hebert and Debbie Crawford. Mayor McQueen then thanked the Chief and the Aldermen for giving him one of the most pleasurable years since he has been in office. He also thanked Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle for all the hard work they do keep the Town in shape. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL:

None

RECREATION DISTRICT #5:

None

FIRE DISTRICT #11:

None

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Terry Parker reported they had no new business.

SCHOOL BOARD:

Mike Winkler notified the Council the School Board recently had election and he was elected Vice President Education Committee.

He told the Council that the High School will receive their new smoker and it will be placed inside.

Mr. Winkler notified the Council that the School Board are short on English Teacher substitutes and are looking for anyone that is certified.

Mayor McQueen asked if there was anything else and then adjourned the meeting.
CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:10 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER 2019



Cheryl K. Schultheis



Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen