



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2019 at 6:30 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 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Alderman McGregor.

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 Daigle and Attorney Mathison.

Absent: None

DISCUSSION:

Mayor McQueen opened the meeting to the Council to address Ordinance 18-11-01(B) – FY 2019 Budget Amendment and Ordinance 19-11-19- FY 2020 Budget. He asked the Council if there were anything in the 2019 Budget that needed to be addressed. Alderman Walsh stated the Attorney Fees in the 2019 General needed to be raised in order to finish out the year. Attorney Daigle agreed to move it to \$84,000.00.

Alderman Walsh printed out an email in reference to the Sage accounting system and handed it to all the Aldermen so they could follow the steps to access the Quarterly Reports from the Council Conference Room computer.

Attorney Daigle then explained to the Council that on the budget any bucket highlighted blue meant there was an increase of monies and any bucket that was highlighted orange meant there was a decrease of monies. Attorney Daigle also noted on the budget if there was no color the monies stayed the same.

Alderman Galloway asked what caused the changes in the 2019 budget. Attorney Daigle stated that two of the biggest factors were due to revenue changes in court fines going down and insurances continuing to go up.

Attorney Daigle stated the 2019 Budget will be revisited in April 2020 because the Town will have all the actuals by March 2020 from the CPA, so the Council can get a better prospective by then on the budget.

Alderman Lee asked about moving the money from another bucket instead of the Money Market.

Attorney Daigle explained once the actuals came in March 2020, any surplus monies would be swept back into the Money Market to make up for the money being deducted out now to amend the 2019 budget.

Attorney Daigle explained to the Council that the General fund has many revenue resources that allow the General Department to disburse funds throughout the departments.

Mayor McQueen stated that it was his job to see that the departments were funded and that he could only do that with the amount of monies he receives. He also stated that he has cut the General Budget for the last three years in order to build the Police Department up but he will not continue to cut the other departments in order to build one department up. He then stated that he did not feel it was a good idea to go into the Money Market to bail a department out when they have a deficient in their budget.

Alderman Lee asked Chief Sessions to explain all the overtime for the dispatchers.

Chief Sessions told Alderman Lee that the Police Department was addressing the issue and was going to correct it.

Alderman Lee asked Chief Sessions about the fuel cost and paying for officer's gas to commute to work. He stated how he felt it was not helping the Town when they live outside of the city limits.

Alderman Lee then told Chief Sessions that these were issues that was going on with the last Police Chief JJ Jennings and he did not like them. He told Chief Sessions this is why we voted for you because we wanted these issues addressed.

Chief Session stated we got three more years.

Attorney Daigle proceeded to go over the 2019 Budget -General Department, Police Department, Streets Department, Sewer Department, Water Department and the Money Market.

Attorney Daigle asked the council if they had any questions in reference to the 2019 Budget at which time the Council had none.

Attorney Daigle then proceeded to go over Ordinance 19-11-19- FY 2020 Budget informing the Council that all expenditures should come from the revenues and the Council should not take any monies from the Money Market unless it is to do a specific project.

Attorney Daigle then informed the Council that all town administrative cost for everything comes from the General Department in which in reality administration is being done for all departments. He stated due to monies such as taxes being collected in the different departments that the monies can only be used for services or expenditures in that department. He told the Council that he and Attorney Mathison discussed that a certain administrative fee could be assessed to each department to offset some of the cost from the General Department.

Attorney Mathison told the Council that the Police, Street and Sewer departments all get revenue from the sales tax and in the proposition from the Sales Tax District states that an administrative fee can be assessed to those departments for administrative cost.

Mayor McQueen stated the Town pays the District 3 taxes out of the sales tax first and then split the remaining tax revenue between the three departments.

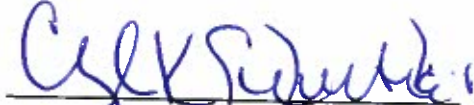
Alderman Lee agreed that an administrative fee from each department was reasonable to do if it was a fair percentage.


Attorney Daigle proceeded to go over the 2020 Budget -General Department, Streets Department, Sewer Department, Water Department and the Money Market. He then told the Council they would go over the 2020 Budget for the Police Department on December 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Mayor McQueen advised the Council to look over the 2020 budget and to review the Police Department budget. He stated if they had any changes that they would want they would address the on December 3, 2019.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 8:15 P.M.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER 2019.


Cheryl K. Schultheis


Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen