



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
December 3, 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.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council if they wanted to make a motion to waive everything except roll call. Alderman Walsh made the motion, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

INVOCATION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Alderman Galloway, Walsh, McGregor, Lee, Bennett, Chief Sessions along with Mayor McQueen, Attorney Daigle and Attorney Mathison.

Absent: None

RESOLUTION: Resolution # 02-12-19 - LGAP grant application

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to accept the LGAP grant application so it could be submitted and he noted the Town received a letter from both Sharon Hewitt and Mary DuBuisson in reference to the grant. Alderman Bennett made the motion, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in favor. So moved.**

DISCUSSION:

Mayor McQueen opened the meeting to the Council to address Ordinance 19-11-19– FY 2020 Budget. Attorney Daigle did a recap of what was discussed at the December 2, 2019 Special Council Meeting in reference to the General Budget and administering administrative fees to the other departments. He then proceeded to tell the Council how he determined the percentages for each department to pay to the General Department for the administrative fees. He stated he took the Mayor, Attorneys, Town Clerk and Finance Clerk salary which total \$207,000.00 and made the General responsible for 50% of cost of the salaries then he took the other 50% and determined the percentage for each of the four remaining departments to pay by adding their revenues together and divided it by the total which gave the percentage for the administrative fees for each department to pay.

Attorney Daigle went over the collections of court fines in 2019 with the Council so they could come up with a number to expect for 2020 Court Fines bucket in the General Department. He asked Chief Sessions if he had some performance issues.

Chief Sessions explained he was new to this and was looking at performance of the officers. He stated he planned on improving.

Attorney Daigle asked the Council if they felt comfortable using \$250,000.00 in the Court Fine bucket or did they want to go higher or lower. He then stated these statics are not meant to be used as a quota system only as a reference for revenue of court fines.

Alderman Walsh stated she felt the number for court fines could go higher than \$250,000.00.

Alderman Lee stated at the end of the day he felt the Council should go with the actual numbers collected for court fines.

Attorney Daigle explained the process involved with the courts and the collection of monies due.

Alderman Walsh asked the Mayor and Council if they felt they could meet the Police Department halfway and instead of giving them the extra \$90,000.00 and give them the \$45,000.00 out of the Money Market for their 2020 Budget and then revisit the budget in June of 2020.

Attorney Daigle told the Council that he felt first they should dig in to the Police Department budget to see where cuts could be made.

Alderman Bennett stated she was against going into the Money Market for the extra funding of the Police budget and wanted to work it out.

Attorney Daigle proceeded to go over the 2020 Budget - Police Department for the School Resource Officers revenues.

Officer Daniel Hunter stated a SRO will be added to the contract for Little Pearl and that Officer Casey Adams would be taking that position.

Attorney Daigle continued to go over the 2020 Police Department budget with the council addressing the payroll bucket. He asked if any other compensation in time could be given.

Officer Hunter stated that he talked about it and he was told that comp time could not be given.

Alderman Walsh asked why the Police Department could not have comp time.

Attorney Mathison informed the Council that it was a legality to issue Compensatory time due to the size of the Town by State Law. He then informed the Council by Federal Standard Act it could not be done.

Chief Sessions spoke and listed all the Town functions that the Police Department does for the Town at no charge as detail time.

Mayor McQueen asked Chief Sessions if he felt he wasn't supposed to do the functions for the Town. The Mayor then stated he went through this with the last Police Chief and was not going to do it again that he would contact the Parish to do the Town functions.

Chief Sessions stated he and his Police Department were going to do the functions for free.

Attorney Daigle stated to be fair that the General fund has given the Police Department \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 year to year out.

Alderman Lee stated he felt the Police Department needed to look at the real numbers and go with those for Court cost.

Alderman Walsh felt they should not look at the statics because it was an election year.

Alderman Lee spoke and told the Council he rather go with the low number and if the revenue in court fines increases then revisit the budget in June and make the adjustment to the bucket then.

Alderman Bennett stated at the end of the day the Police Department can't spend money that isn't there.

Mayor McQueen stated he has cut the General Department for four years in a row to help the Police Department and the only thing that has changed is the Chief of Police so the Police department should know what the budget is going to be every year. The Mayor stated he is not adding any more money to the Police Department budget that it would be up to the Council. The Mayor then told the Council if they wanted to build the budget off of the Money Market it was up to the Council but he was not cutting anymore out of the General Department.

Alderman Walsh asked the Mayor if he would be willing to consider going \$30,000.00 and \$30,000.00 with the Police Department with the Administrative monies.

Mayor McQueen stated he felt the Police Department should sit down and present him with a workable budget that works and after he reviews it he will give it to the Council to decide on.

Attorney Daigle stated after all the cuts are made the Police Department deficit will be \$30,000.00 and they have a onetime \$20,000.00 asset sale.

Alderman Walsh asked the Police Department if at the beginning of January will the detail go away at Little Pearl and the Police Department have a School Resource Officer in place.

Officer Hunter stated the detail will go away and an Officer will be in place at Little Pearl in January.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council if there was any other business on the 2020 budget that needed to be addressed.

Alderman Bennett stated that Alderman McGregor and her felt the Town no longer needed the Animal Services and asked for it not to be renewed in 2020.

Alderman Walsh agreed the animal services should be cancelled in 2020.

Alderman Lee stated he would like to have a line item in the Police Department to help animals that are injured.

Alderman Bennett stated it would be a small amount in the bucket \$600.00 for this line item.

Chief Sessions stated he would be good having this line item in his budget.

Attorney Daigle stated the Police Department deficit was now \$13,000.00 and if it could be subtracted from the administrative fees.

Mayor McQueen said he would be good with the deduction coming from the administrative fees.

Attorney Daigle said with that taking out the administrative fees the Police Department budget was now balanced.

Attorney Daigle then explained the Money Market functions and the monies needed to have on hand in case of an emergency to the Council.

Attorney Daigle went over the rest of the 2020 Budgets for the remaining departments.

Mayor McQueen asked the Council if there was any further business to address if not he would adjourn the Council meeting.


CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:30 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER 2019.


Cheryl K. Schultheis


Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen