



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2020 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 January 21, 2020 Council Meeting. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in favor. So moved.**

MOTION:

Alderman Bennett asked the Council if she could make a motion to move Chief Session up on the agenda due to a case. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Lee.

All in favor. So moved.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated that from January 1st to January 31, 2019 there were 540 calls, 230 citations written, 12 warnings, 37 arrests- 6 of the arrest were drug related, 62 violations and 1 attempted robbery.

PARISH COUNCIL

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to move Parish Council Mike Smith up on the agenda. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in favor. So moved.**

Mike Smith talked about the Resolution that was passed by the Parish Council to enable the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge to be placed on the DOTD Letting List for bids. He stated he would keep the Council informed with the progression of the bridge. He then told the Council that the Parish was keeping a watchful eye on the Pearl River and the flood stages. He reminded the Council that the Census would be

held in March and everyone needed to participate in order for St. Tammany Parish to get Federal monies.

SPECIAL GUEST:

Judge Swartz spoke to the Council to announce his candidacy for the vacant seat on the Louisiana Court of Appeal – First Circuit- the election will be on April 4, 2020.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION:

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance No. 18-02-20 – An Ordinance annexing and zoning 1.479 acres of land located at 64599 Hwy. 41 from Parish HC-2 (Highway Commercial) to Town B2, as petitioned by 4KYM, L.L.C., represented by Yvette Carrasco. A public hearing will be held on March 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor McQueen discussed with the Council the property owner's responsibility for sewer/water bills Ordinance No # 174-A Amended 1-15-19 stating that owners are responsible for any past due bills against the property.

Alderman Lee stated that this procedure was standard in most municipalities and felt it was beneficial. Mayor McQueen stated that only one business has had a problem twice with tenants leaving a past due balance.

Alderman Walsh stated that if two parties, meaning the tenant and the owner, were responsible for the sewer and water bills that both parties should be notified. She felt that if the phrasing of the ordinance was changed to "shall send to the owner" instead of "might be sent to the owner" the responsibility would be clearer to both parties in Ordinance No. 174-A.

Alderman Bennett asked what happens if the tenant moves out and leaves a bill and a new tenant moves in.

Mayor McQueen told the council that the water would not be turned back on until the owner paid the past due balances on the sewer/water bill.

Attorney Daigle notified the Council that he and Attorney Mathison had discussed this issue in reference to privacy rights and there was a possibility that it would infringe on the tenant's right to privacy, unless a waiver was signed by both the tenant and the owner.

Alderman Walsh said that if the owner was going to be held responsible for the past due balance that they needed to be notified.

Attorney Mathison stated that first we need to check and find out if a past due balance is subject to public record.

Mayor McQueen stated that before the water meters were in place most owners included the flat rate in the tenant's rent.

Alderman Walsh asked that if the bill was in both the owner's and the tenant's named why it wasn't sent to the owner.

Mayor McQueen said that the bill was sent to the property and that if the owner wanted it sent to their address then they could request it.

Alderman Walsh then felt that the issue would be addressed if the owner requested that the bill be sent to his or her address. She also commented that she would further research other ordinances to see how they were worded for the property owner's responsibility for the sewer/water bills.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

- **Alderman Bennett-Recycling**

Alderman Bennett notified the Council that the Recycle dumpster would be arriving early next week and the kids at Riverside Elementary have already begun collecting recyclable items that she and Alderman McGregor will pick up and bring to the dumpster at the Town Hall.

She informed the council that the FFA Turkey Shoot would be held at the Park and Ride and all proceeds would go for the barn and the FFA student fund.

She stated that she was working with the Pearl River Lion's Club to come up with a fall date for the 5K Run this year.

She also informed the council that STARC is collecting Mardi Gras beads.

She stated that Presidential Primary election would be held April 4th, 2020 and that everyone needed to be registered with their party by March 5th to be able to vote.

Alderman Galloway asked about the Recycle dumpster.

Alderman Lee asked how come the Recycle dumpster was not placed on the school grounds like Abita Springs and Fontainebleau.

Alderman Bennett responded that when she and Alderman Mc Gregor approached the St. Tammany School Board they were told that the School Board did not want the Recycle dumpster on the school ground property.

Alderman Walsh asked if the Recycle dumpster would cost the town anything.

Mayor McQueen notified the council that every three to four months the dumpster would be emptied if it had been filled at a cost to the town of \$200 to \$300. He added that the Recycle dumpster was being done on a trial basis to see how the residents responded to it.

Brian Phillips, owner of Residential St. Tammany Waste, informed the council that recycling was very expensive and that Gus Bordelon is taking a loss by doing the recycling dumpster for the community. He wished that he would be financially able to do it but being a small business it would be too costly.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- **Police Chief**

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen informed the Council that the Town Clean-up would be held on March 14th at 8:00 am.

He notified the Council that the judges for "The Cleanest City Contest" would be arriving on March the 26, 2020 at 9:00am to judge the Town of Pearl River.

Mayor Mc Queen thanked the Council for be patient with the Town Hall while it is going through their renovation period and he hoped to have it completed within the next week.

Mayor McQueen told the Council the 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt would be held on April 4, 2020 at the James Lavigne Park.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5

Peter Finger spoke of the importance of participating in the Census. He also discussed the expanding of Recreation #5 boundary lines.

FIRE DISTRICT #11

EMS-48
MVA-2
Service/GI-6
Dispatched/Canceled-4
Structure Fire- 2 (1-M/A) District #7
Vehicle Fire-2
Rubbish/Grass Fire-2
Cooking Fire-1
False Alarm-5
Fuel Spill-1
73- Total

SCHOOL BOARD:

None

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Tim Mathison reported that the Planning and Zoning would hold a Public Hearing on March 17, 2020 in reference to Ordinance 18-02-20 – An Ordinance annexing and zoning 1.479 acres of land located at 64599 Hwy. 41 from Parish HC-2 (Highway Commercial) to Town B2, as petitioned by 4KYM, L.L.C., represented by Yvette Carrasco.

DISCUSSION:

Attorney Daigle showed the Council the comparison of the 2018 & 2019 Sales Tax to ensure the low numbers of 2018 Sales Tax was used to project the Sales Tax for the 2020 Budget.

Mayor McQueen adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:05 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18 TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020


Cheryl K. Schultheis


Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen