



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
July 8, 2020 at 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order and asked the Council to dispense with the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**DISCUSSION ITEM: Ordinance 18-11-01 (A) - FY 2019 Budget**

Mayor McQueen opened for discussion the 2019 Budget to the Council he noted the two changes on the Budget. Attorney Daigle addressed the changes stating that they were in the Police Budget in transfers. He explained to the Council that \$50,000.00 from the money market was not put in the transfers to the Police Department which now showed a \$30,000.00 surplus instead of an \$80,000.00 surplus. Then he explained that on the Money Market bucket for the Police Department had to also change to a \$30,000.00 surplus. Attorney Daigle then explained the surplus to the Council and how it worked. Alderman Lee asked Attorney Daigle about the money in the Contingency funds. Attorney Daigle explained that it is money that cannot be touched and is required by the State to ensure payment for the Water Well and Sewer Plant Loan in case something was too happened to the Town.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: Ordinance 19-11-19 (A) - FY 2020 Budget**

Mayor McQueen opened for discussion the 2020 Budget to the council. Attorney Daigle explained in the 2020 General budget he lowered the Court Fines from \$250,000.00 to \$225,000.00 due to the Covid-19 and individuals not being able to pay their fines.

He then explained on the Franchise Fees the Town collected \$215,000.00 in 2019 but the Town should stay conservative and put \$175,000.00 in the bucket for 2020. For the Ad Valorem bucket Attorney Daigle told the Council he lowered it from the actual collected \$197,000.00 to \$185,600.00.

Mayor McQueen informed the Council that even with the mileage rolling back he felt the numbers would be good for 2020 with the new tax assessments coming out.

Attorney Daigle addressed Impact Fees stating they were left at \$10,000.00. He then went over Expenditures stating the Capital Expenditures was increased to \$12,000.00 for the new See Saw and

Merry Go Round equipment for the park. Attorney Daigle explained the Court Expenses were increased to \$9,000.00 to cover Court cost and State fees for the rest of the year. He then informed the Council that the Building Maintenance was increased by \$10,000.00 to build a new Record Room.

Attorney Daigle asked Deputy Chief Hunter if he wanted to explain the Police Department budget to the Council. He stated he would let Attorney Daigle proceed and add to it as they went over it. Attorney Daigle told the Council to look at the Miscellaneous Income and stated the bucket showed \$32,000.00 and was lowered to \$12,000.00.

Alderman Lee stated the bucket should show nothing because the Police Department has not surplused anything that they have promised in the last year and a half.

Alderman Walsh asked Deputy Chief Hunter where the Police Department was at with the selling of the surplus vehicles.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated they had a list and they were trying to figure out what route to take. He stated that Chief Sessions was looking in to it. The Alderman then discussed in detail with Deputy Chief Hunter the fact that the surplus has not been addressed yet.

Alderman Lee then told the Council he felt they should revisit it once the vehicles were surplus.

Alderman Walsh agreed with Alderman Lee.

Mayor McQueen informed the Council before anything was sold it had to be surplused by the Council through an Ordinance.

Alderman Walsh asked Deputy Chief Hunter what the holdup was.

Deputy Chief Hunter explained they needed legal advice on which way was the best way to surplus the vehicles.

Alderman Walsh told Deputy Chief Hunter that Chief Sessions needed to get off the pot and talk to Attorney Mathison to start the process of finding out the legal way to surplus the vehicles.

Attorney Mathison told the Council in order to start the process he needed to draft an ordinance and for the Police Department to submit a list of the property that was to be surplus.

Alderman Bennett asked Deputy Chief Hunter if he could do that. He stated he would get the list to Attorney Mathison.

Attorney Daigle asked the Council what they wanted to do for Miscellaneous Income. The Council informed him to leave it at \$2,000.00 and they would revisit it once the vehicles were surplus.

Attorney Daigle went over the Revenue Sales Tax line with the Council stating the Police Department wanted \$677,000.00 in that bucket.

Alderman Lee felt that the Council should leave it at \$650,000.00 to be on the conservative side. He stated if you gave it to the Police Department to spend and the Town's Sales Tax dropped the Council would have to take money out of the Money Market to make up for the loss at the end of the year.

The Council then discussed in detail the Revenue Sales Tax with Attorney Daigle.

Mayor McQueen agreed with Alderman Lee and stated the Council needed to keep a close eye on the sales tax numbers because of the Covid-19.

Deputy Chief Hunter told the Council no monies were being wasted on the Police Department's side. He stated the only money being spent was for bills, some ammunition and only training that is mandated by the State.

Mayor McQueen asked Deputy Chief Hunter if the Police Department quit feeding prisoners.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated rather than letting the prisoners sit in jail two or three days with no intentions to get out that he negotiates with the prisoners. He stated that he continues to offer them lowered amounts on their fines in order for them to come up with the money to bond out of jail.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated once they do that the prisoners either show up for court with Judge Daigle or they skip out. Deputy Chief Hunter stated that is the new way the Police Department handles their prisoners.

Alderman Walsh told the Council she would rather keep the Revenue Sales Tax at \$650,000.00.

The Council all agreed it would be in the Town's best interest to keep the Revenue Sales Tax at \$650,000.00 in the budget.

Attorney Daigle went over the rest of the Police Department's budget with the Council.

Alderman Lee asked Deputy Chief Hunter about the Resource Officer at Little Pearl.

Deputy Chief Hunter explained Casey Adams was supposed to be put in that position but he was no longer with the Police Department.

Alderman Lee told Deputy Chief Hunter he was under the impression Officer Adams was to take that position starting in January.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated it was a detail until COVID-19 and that the School Board paid for the detail. He stated it did not cost the Town any money.

Alderman Lee asked Deputy Chief Hunter how much did the School Board pay for the detail.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated that an officer is paid \$35.00 an hour for the eight hour a day detail.

Alderman Lee asked about take home vehicles and if the Town ever received pay from the Officers towards the gas usage that was promised in the beginning of the year by the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated he thought an ordinance had to be made in order to deduct money from an officer's check. He asked what about other Town vehicles like the Mayor's should have to pay too. The Council informed him that the Mayor and Chief were elected officials and were excluded from paying.

Attorney Daigle told Chief Deputy Hunter to go over his budget with Chief and resubmit it to the Council.

Attorney Daigle then went over with the Council the Street Department, Sewer and Water budgets .

Mayor McQueen adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**AT 6:50 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 8TH DAY OF JULY 2020**



Cheryl K. Schultheis



Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen