



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
December 15, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and 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, Lee, Bennett, Chief Sessions along with Mayor McQueen, Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle. Absent: Alderman McGregor

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for November 17, 2020 Council Meeting. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Galloway. **All in favor.**  
**So moved.**

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION:**

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance No. 20-0819-(A) – An ordinance relative to the speed limit on Highway 41 Spur.

Mayor McQueen introduced Ordinance No. 15-12-20-An ordinance relative to the re-subdivision and rezoning of property located at 64659 Hwy 41.

There will be a public hearing on this ordinance on January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Ordinance No. 17-11-20-An ordinance relative to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 17-11-20 -An ordinance relative to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council if they had anything in reference to the 2021 Budget.

Alderman Bennett stated she did not understand why the Police Department budget was continuing to be cut. She compared the 2021 Budget to Chief Raynor's 2014 budget and the former Police Chief's

excessive budget. Alderman Bennett told the Council with a growing town the Police Department needed the extra funding to do their job efficiently.

Mayor McQueen asked Chief Sessions who was responsible for the Police Department budget. Chief Sessions responded Deputy Chief Hunter.

Alderman Walsh reiterated that Deputy Chief Hunter was the delegated party for the Police Department budget.

Deputy Chief Hunter stated he was the one responsible for the Police Department budget.

Attorney Daigle asked the Police Department to put some statics together and show the Council the number of crime stats from 2012 versus crime stats of 2020.

Terry Parker stated she did not want to see the Police force decrease because of their budget.

Alderman Lee stated that the original budget Mayor McQueen introduced was giving the Police Department \$995,000.00. He said after talking to Mayor McQueen and other members of the Council the Council felt the Sales Tax would be higher and was now giving the Police Department 97.3% of what the Police Department was asking for. Alderman Lee stated the budget would be revisited in March once the actuals were in at which time the budget could increase for the Police Department.

Alderman Walsh stated this is the most communication they have received from the Police Department in reference to the numbers the Council needs to provide them with the funding they need. She stated the Council cannot give everything to the Mayor or the Chief and that the departments need to prioritize what they really need. Alderman Walsh expressed that the monies needed to be spread out to all the departments in order to address the issues that arrive with new growth.

Alderman Galloway stated in comparison to other Police Departments she felt the Pearl River Police Department budget was in accordance with its size. She stated it was the Council's job to watch every penny and to ensure job security for town employees. Alderman Galloway expressed her love for the Pearl River Police Department and would never permit the St. Tammany Parish Police to take over the Pearl River Police Department like other small towns.

Alderman Bennett stated she felt the Police Department was significantly cut in the 2020 Budget and should not be cut in the 2021 Budget. She expressed with the new growth of Pearl River the Police Departments budget should grow.

Alderman Walsh expressed her concerns in reference to court fine revenues from the 22nd Judicial Courts. She asked Attorney Mathison if he was able to find out the contact information for the Police Department to follow up on the monies owed to the department even if it was a small amount.

Attorney Mathison stated he was in the process of finding out.

Alderman Walsh stated for the record this was the second time she was bringing the 22nd Judicial Court fine revenue up and wanted the Police Department to follow through.

Mayor McQueen closed the Public Hearing and asked the Council to make a motion. Alderman Lee made the motion to accept the 2021 Budget dated 12/15/2020, seconded by Alderman Walsh.

Roll Call Vote:

Alderman Galloway- Yea

Alderman Walsh-Yea

Alderman McGregor- Absent

Alderman Lee-Yea

Alderman Bennett- Nay

**All in favor. So moved.**

**Ordinance No.16-28-11A- An ordinance relative to the Town Clerk Compensation**

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to take Ordinance No. 16--28-11(A)- An ordinance relative to the Town Clerk compensation off the floor. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in favor. So moved.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 16--28-11(A)- An ordinance relative to the Town Clerk compensation.

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

**Ordinance No. 17-12-19(A)- An ordinance relative to Town holidays.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 17-12-19(A) -An ordinance relative to Town holidays.

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

**Ordinance No. 18-11-20- An ordinance relative to modular homes.**

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 18-11-20 -An ordinance relative to modular homes.

Alderman Walsh made the motion to tabled until it goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by Alderman Galloway. **All in favor. So moved.**

**TABLED ITEMS:**

**Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter River Road**

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to take Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter River Road off the floor.

Alderman Walsh made a motion to take Tabled Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter River Road pending the St. Tammany Parish input, seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. So moved.**

**Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter’s River Road**

Mayor McQueen asked the Council to make a motion to Table Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter’s River Road pending the St Tammany Parish input.

Alderman Bennett made a motion to Tabled Ordinance No. 07-28-20(A) – An ordinance annexing and zoning a parcel of land along West Porter River’s Road pending the St. Tammany Parish input, seconded by Alderman Galloway. **All in favor. So moved.**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:5**

- **Alderman Bennett- Blood Drive**

Alderman Bennett stated there is a nationwide shortage for blood and for everyone to please donate if they are able to.

Alderman Bennett then voiced her concerns in reference to a site that was being used

for bullying in the St. Tammany Parish schools. Deputy Chief Hunter informed her the site had been taken down.

- **Alderman Walsh- Hwy 41 Spur Bridge**  
Alderman Walsh asked for more updates and for an expected date of completion to be posted on the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge on Facebook.
- **Alderman Lee- Culverts**  
Alderman Lee thanked Mayor McQueen for working on placing culverts along Taylor Street by the Pearl River High School to make it more accessible for traffic during student drop off and pick up for buses and cars.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- **Police Chief-**  
Officer German gave November Police Report  
Calls-380  
Tickets-154  
Warnings-2  
Arrest-16  
Arresting Offenses-22  
11/7/20 Drug arrest seized \$3891.00 PWIT

#### **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen thanked the Police Department, the Fire Department, all the volunteers and helpers for making the Drive Thru Christmas a huge success.

Mayor McQueen thanked the Council for a great year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### **RECREATION DISTRICT #5**

None

#### **FIRE DISTRICT #11**

##### **Chief Dockery-July**

EMS-53

Vehicle Fire-1

Shed Fire-1

Service/GI-9

Dispatched/Canceled-3

Police Matter-1

68- Total

Chief Dockery thanked the Town for letting them participate in the Christmas Drive Thru.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL:**

None

#### **SCHOOL BOARD:**

None

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**

None

Mayor McQueen adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**AT 8:30 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2020**



Cheryl K. Schultheis



Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen