



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2017 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to the order by Mayor McQueen.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Aldermen Walsh, Bennett, Phillips, Cutrer along with Mayor McQueen, Chief Jennings, and Attorney Mathison. Absent: Alderman McGregor

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Alderman Cutrer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor McQueen opened the Public Hearing with the Revised 2017 Budget.

Mayor McQueen called for a resolution of acceptance on the Revised Budget motioned by Alderman Phillips and seconded by Alderman Walsh. So Moved. Opened for discussion.

Alderman Walsh motioned to amend the Town Clerks salary, in the budget, from \$42,600.00 to \$40,000.00. Seconded by Alderman Phillips. Open for discussion.

Alderman Walsh motioned to amend the Police Chief salary, in the budget, from \$48,000.00 to \$50,000.00. Seconded by Alderman Phillips. Open for discussion.

Alderman Bennett believed that the public was not properly notified of this new pay increase. She felt that the councilmen just voted NAY on this amendment about six months ago, and did not feel it should be voted on again this year.

Alderman Phillips motioned to table this amendment for the Police Chief's salary for the next Town Meeting on September 19, 2017. Seconded by Alderman Cutrer. All in favor. So moved.

Mayor McQueen asked for a motion to accept amendment to the budget for the Town Clerks Salary. So moved by Alderman Walsh. Seconded by Alderman Phillips.

**Roll Call Vote: WALSH- YEA
CUTRER- YEA
PHILLIPS- YEA
BENNETT – NAY
MCGREGOR-ABSENT
4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT – MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMENTS:

Debbie Hebert from the audience asked if the Town Clerk was unable to fulfill her duties. Mayor McQueen informed the audience that the Town Clerk officially resigned, but he could not discuss the Town Clerk at this meeting due to it not being on the agenda.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Carla Benelli, former Town Clerk, asked to speak. The Councilman informed her that they could not discuss this without it on the agenda. Alderman Phillips advised Mrs. Benelli that believed that it would be in her best interest not to speak. Mayor McQueen stated that because the meeting was adjourned, legally, the Council has to have an anonymous vote to reopen the meeting.

Alderman Cutrer motioned to reopen the meeting to allow Carla Benelli to speak. Seconded by Alderman Walsh

**Roll Call Vote: WALSH- YEA
CUTRER- YEA
PHILLIPS- YEA
BENNETT – NAY
MCGREGOR-ABSENT
4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT – MOTION CARRIED.**

Carla Benelli read her resignation letter. **(Letter attached, or request C.D.)**

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 22ND DAY OF AUGUST 2017

Honorable David McQueen, Mayor