



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 2017 at 7:00 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 at 7:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Alderman Bennett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor McQueen called for approval of minutes from the council meeting held on August 15, 2017. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Bennett. All in favor. So moved.

Mayor McQueen called for approval of minutes from the special council meeting held on August 17, 2017. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Cutrer. All in favor. So moved.

Mayor McQueen called for approval of minutes from the special council meeting held on August 22, 2017. Alderman Walsh made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman McGregor. All in favor. So moved.

SPECILA COMMENTS:

Reginald J. Laurent informed the council and the audience that he will be running for Judge, Division H. on October 14, 2017.

Mayor McQueen apologized to the council and the citizens because the notification for the meeting was not posted in a timely manner.

TABLED ITEMS:

Mayor McQueen asked if the council wishes to take action on the increase in the Police Chief salary. Alderman Bennett motioned to take it off the table. Alderman McGregor seconded.

VOTE: 2 YEAYS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – NOT MOVED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alderman Cutrer discussed with the council Ordinance #16-28-11 "Compensation for The Town Clerk of Pearl River." In this Ordinance the Town Clerk gets an extra \$150.00 for any extra meeting he/she would have to attend. Alderman Cutrer asked the council if they would like to discuss and amend the amount. Alderman Bennett expressed that she would not like to change the Ordinance due to the recent decrease in the Town Clerks salary. Alderman Walsh feels that the council along with the Town Attorney would need to review the Ordinance in regards to any day time meeting, due to the Town Clerk receiving hourly pay during that time. Mayor McQueen informed the council that the Town Clerk will not receive pay for a day time meeting when he/she is getting payed hourly as well for that is illegal. He also informed the council that he has discussed with the active Town Clerk that she will be getting paid hourly for any meeting at this time. Alderman Bennett informed the council to consider having meetings during Town Hall hours if this pay is voted to be removed. Alderman Walsh stated that there is a pay scale with the LMA, and for the Mayor along with the Attorneys to discuss how to move forward. Mayor McQueen also informed the council that the advertisement for the Town Clerk position will be posted in the paper this week.

Alderman Cutrer discussed several ordinances with the council. She stated that at the last council meeting Mayor McQueen requested the council to come up with an ordinance in regards to parking lot maintenance.

Alderman Cutrer feels that Ordinance #01-00 "Pearl River Minimum Landscape Requirements" would be the best place to have the maintenance for business parking lot. She asked the council to review the ordinance and discuss with the Mayor and the Attorney on amending this ordinance. Alderman Walsh informed the council that this would be the ordinance to refer to, to dictate the regulations for dumpsters.

Alderman Cutrer discussed with the council Ordinance #65-03 "A Grass Ordinance" and asked if the Grass Ordinance could be added to the Landscape Ordinance. Attorney Mathison asked the council to consider redoing both ordinances.

Alderman Cutrer discussed the Ordinance #79-11-01 "Public Nuisance" with the council, stating that the Mayor was concerned about people parking vehicles, to sell, on property that does not belong to them. She believes that this problem could not be placed in the Public Nuisance ordinance but could possibly fall under Illegal Dumping Law. Mayor McQueen informed the council and the audience that he will do some research on this matter.

Randy from the audience gave the council and the audience the definition of "dumping."

Jenny Hindman from the audience asked the council if the Grass Ordinances or the Landscape Ordinance would apply to in home business. Alderman Walsh informed her that there is an Ordinance for In Home Business, and information may be on our website or she can come by the Town Hall for a copy.

Alderman Cutrer informed the council that she is working with Deputy Chief Danny Hunter to create an Event Ordinance. She asked the council to consider putting an Event Ordinance into place. The Councilmen briefly discuss this matter. Mrs. Debbie Hebert from the audience stated that "we are a small town, and we want to keep it like that." Alderman Walsh asked Alderman Cutrer if she could bring to the council all the concerns, and discuss with the Mayor and the Attorney.

Alderman Cutrer informed the council and the audience that the KPRB and Fall Clean-up will be November 18, 2017. She stated that if the Town does not form a Keep Pearl River Beautiful committee by January the Town would forfeit the \$1,000.00. Mayor McQueen informed the audience and the council that a committee will be in place by January.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

Alderman Bennett informed the audience that the fundraiser for Retta Burge was very successful. She thanked everyone that was able to come and participate. Alderman Bennett also thanked the citizens for all the donations received for the flood victims in Texas. Denise Walker, Debbie Hebert, Russell and Sherry Lindsey for coming and helping clean up an elderly couple in our neighborhood. Alderman Bennett also announced the date for Trunk-or-Treat, which will be held at Rotollo's on October 27, 2017. Alderman Bennett took this time to apologize to the public and the council in regards to her statement that there was an illegal appointment for Planning and Zoning Commission. She stated that she later learned that the only reason the appointment of Terry Parker was not illegal was because three council members voted to make this appointment.

Alderman Walsh responded to Alderman Bennett's apology.
(See attached statement and/or request C.D. for more information)

Alderman Cutrer reminded the council and the audience about the Night out Against Crime on October 13, 2017 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Mayor McQueen read the Mayor's Proclamation for National Night Out Against Crime and National Fire Prevention Month.

Mayor McQueen Spoke about the bridge on Spur 41.

POLICE CHIEF:

Deputy Chief Hunter gave arresting report for this month. 47 = Total Arrest, 2 - Crime against nature, 6-Local warrants, 6- Attachments from other agents, 2- DWI, and 8- Drug related

RECREATION DISTRICT #5

Peter Finger spoke about the Towns Boat Landing, and the hopes to get basketball, flag football, and contact football in district #5. Once approved by the High School and School Board. He also informed the council and audience that they are in the process of buying a computer and getting an office.

FIRE DISTRICT #11

Not Present

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

No new business

SCHOOL BOARD

Peggy Seeley informed the council and the audience that school has started and going smooth. She also announced that she was appointed to state commission regarding state testing "LEAP".

Floyd Trascher from the audience asked if the School Board's Budget includes the 3% cost of living. Mrs. Seeley answered that the School Board cannot lock in a certain amount.

Mayor McQueen reminded everyone that the river clean-up will be Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Tassin from the audience feels that it is important for the Town to be proactive. He stated that an events ordinance may not be necessary at this moment, but believes as the Town grows a guideline may need to be in place for the future of our Town.

Betty Hodge from the audience spoke about her drainage on her property on Gum Street. Mayor McQueen informed her that he understands her problem, but there is no room for a ditch next to the asphalt. In order to place a drainage ditch he would have to get written permission from the residence along Williams Street to place a ditch.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:29 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2017.

Clarence D. McQueen
Honorable Clarence McQueen, Mayor