 June 7, 2018

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on May 15, 2018 at the Town Hall in Pearl River.

Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Alderman Bennett gave the invocation; the pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor McQueen called roll and Alderman Walsh, Bennett, Phillips, Cutrer, McGregor, Attorney Tim Mathison, Attorney Matt Daigle, and Town Clerk, Madeline Campbell were all present.

Alderman Walsh motions to table the minutes for approval, Alderman Phillips seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**

**RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:**

1. Pastor Billy Trusley of Pine Grove – Pearl River Ministerial Alliance report on Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast held May 3rd, 2018
2. Alderman Cutrer – Recognition of Pearl River High School Principal, and Riverside Elementary School Principal in their retirement after many years of service.
3. Alderman Bennett – Recognition of Jessica Gauley & Honey Island Kayak Tours.
4. Mayor McQueen requested Miss Julie Agan, Director of Council On Aging St Tammany (COAST) to speak on the status of the Senior Program here in Pearl River.

Mayor McQueen opens up the floor for public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Discussion of Ordinance #16-21-12A Final Budget 2017 acceptance. Any comments from the floor? Workshop already conducted May 7th. No comment. Motion from Alderman Bennett to accept; Alderman McGregor seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**
2. Discussion of Ordinance #17-17-12A Proposed Budget 2018 acceptance. Mayor McQueen comments on office employee adjustments to reflect experience and time served is included in this presentation. Raises for all town employees are not feasible at this time; Mayor McQueen asks the council to set up a procedure for future. Mayor McQueen closes the public hearing. Alderman Walsh motions to accept the 2018 Budget; Alderman Cutrer seconds the motion. Alderman Walsh calls for a roll call vote: Walsh-yes, Bennett-no, Phillips-yes, Cutrer-yes, McGregor-no. **So Moved.**
3. Mayor McQueen opens Discussion of MS4 report for public hearing. Flood Drainage Runoff, Debris, and trash handling/mitigation. No comments. Public Hearing closed. Alderman Bennett motions to accept this report. Alderman Cutrer seconds. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**
4. Mayor McQueen opens discussion of Resolution #18-05-15 to Adopt and Levy millage and keep it the same rate for public hearing. Alderman Walsh motions to accept this resolution; second by Alderman Bennett. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**
5. Mayor McQueen opens discussion on Amending Ordinance #62-08 Street Regulations to public hearing. Suggested to change the speed limit on portion of Oak Street between Ash and Richland to Barrington Court. No public comment. Alderman Bennett offers comments regarding this change as a resident of Oak Street. Issue is personal responsibility echoed by residents from the floor and Alderman Bennett & Walsh. Discussion about signs and “Double Fine” areas being decided. No more discussion, Mayor McQueen closes the public hearing. Alderman Phillips motions to accept the ordinance with amendments. Alderman Walsh seconds the motion. Alderman Walsh calls for roll call vote: Walsh-Yay, Bennett-Nay, Phillips-Yay, Cutrer-Yay, McGregor-Nay. **Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA PLACE REQUEST BY CITIZENS**

1. Drainage issues regarding Magnolia Ridge new subdivision. They have all the right expert reviews and paperwork; they are doing what they provided in paperwork.
2. Sullivan Place update. Water movement is too slow toward highway. Part of the engineer service would include permission to make changes on Highway 41.

**TABLED ITEMS:**

1. Ordinance #18-03-03 Regulating Special Public Events, public hearing held on April 17th, 2018 at our Regular Council Meeting. Alderman Walsh motions to take this off the table; Alderman Cutrer seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**  Now the discussion is open. Joey Wren comes to the podium; his concern is about such an ordinance being used to personally target, choose to enforce against. He is a non-profit and cannot afford to pay a detail LA commissioned officer. Alderman Cutrer motions to accept this ordinance. There is no second. **Motion Dies.**
2. Ordinance #174A Sewer & Water Rate Adjustment. Alderman Bennett motions to take this ordinance off the table. Alderman McGregor seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.** Mayor McQueen is asking the council to call for a public hearing on the S&W rates at the next meeting June 19th, 2018 for discussion so decision can be made and move forward on setting these rates. Issues that need to be determined include the base or ceiling amount in gallons, the flat rate in dollars for that ceiling, the amount to charge in dollars for usage over that ceiling. Alderman Walsh motions to table the ordinance until June 19th meeting. Alderman Bennett seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**
3. Discussion to adopt Resolution #18-05-02 Calling for an Election to Decide on a Trash Provider. If the council wants the people to decide, we must pay $1,200 to put this on the election ballot in November. Determine a carrier for the Town and type of services provided by the carrier. Alderman Walsh motions to adopt this resolution. Alderman Phillips seconds the motion to adopt the resolution. Alderman Walsh calls for a roll call vote: Walsh-Yay, Bennett-Nay, Phillips-Yay, Cutrer-Nay, McGregor-Nay. **Motion Failed.**  Mayor McQueen reiterates that this is not the end of trying to get one carrier, which is his desire; so many advantages to having only one carrier. We can do this in house at a later date.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS:**

Reminders: We have a Honey Island Swamp Festival coming up on June 1st and June 2nd. We will have a Fourth of July Celebration on Tuesday, July 3rd. Our Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is underway.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS:**

Alderman Walsh wants to note that Chief Jennings has entered the Council Chambers.

Alderman Bennett wants to mention a Honey Island Museum Celebration coming up on Saturday, June 16th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Scheduled to have demonstrations, scavenger hunt, refreshments, etc. to promote our Museum.

Alderman Cutrer mentions Pearl River won the Second Place in State award for Cleanest City Contest.

Alderman Phillips mentions his grandson was born this week.

**CHIEF JENNINGS COMMENTS:**

Chief reports on the arrest activity for April. He presents a chart for the Reserve Officer usage in Pearl River. Man hours used amount to approximately $50,000 that would have been incurred with regular employees. School Board meeting he attended is looking to place a School Resource Officer in every school. This means his employees placed there will be returned to Pearl River streets.

CCST (Concerned Citizens of St Tammany) representative, Mr Rick Franzo, is here to recognize one of the PR officers, Miss Jessica Picasso. She performed her duty in a special incident under difficult circumstances for the benefit of a citizen.

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

Gene Bellisario offers Hwy 41 Spur update; the Parish Council has introduced the ordinance for funding the Highway 41 Spur work so beginning the actual acquisition process can be in same time line as the State’s approval of the work. Animal Control millage tax renewal coming up is important. Revenue generated will be for 2019; funding will be there, just deciding when there will be an election for this tax.

Gene mentions a piece of property off of East Porter River Road, called Southern Wood Lane. This property is not in St Tammany Parish Maintenance Records as a recorded road. Dividing line is the bayou; there is a piece of that area in The Town of Pearl River, so some newly discovered revenue for the town. The road has never been dedicated. It is referred to as a Servitude of Passage.

**RECREATION DISTRICT 5:**

Pete Finger updates the meeting is next Monday.

**FIRE DISTRICT 11:**

Jack Dockery offers update regarding the activity for April. He reminds people about the heat in summer in Louisiana especially for the outside events like HISF. Keep hydrated, and use sunscreen; do not leave people or pets in hot vehicles. There will be a unit for both days of the Honey Island Swamp Festival.

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

The Board met on May 8th and held a public hearing about two issues. The first was a request by Taco Bell to subdivide their property. Planning and Zoning Commission has decided to recommend to the Town Council that they accept the request by Taco Bell to subdivide the property.

Second issue for the public hearing concerned a property at 66193 Highway 41 Spur to change the zoning from R-1 residential to M-1 light industrial for building of a Whiskey Distillery. This was tabled because his application was not complete.

Before the Planning and Zoning recommendation is voted on, Mayor McQueen introduces a letter from Mr Steve Fecke, property owner of Trinity Square, the adjacent property to Taco Bell. This letter, dated May 14th, 2018, was presented with a request to read it into the minutes of our Town Council Meeting. Attorney Mathison reads the letter. This letter in its entirety is attached to the minutes of this May 15th 2018 meeting.

Mayor McQueen asks for the council to decide. Alderman Walsh motions to accept the Planning & Zoning Commission’s recommendation. Alderman Phillips seconds the motion to open for discussion. Comments were made about drainage, traffic, the size of the second business, and that there are restrictive covenants regarding what kind of businesses would be allowed as the second business. Also mentioned in the discussion was the Trinity Square property owner’s intention to build a strip mall across the back portion, and all landscaping and green space requirements were met by Taco Bell. No more discussion? Move on.

Mayor McQueen asks the wishes of the council. Alderman Walsh calls for roll call vote: Walsh-Yay, Bennett-Nay, Phillips-Nay, Cutrer-Nay, McGregor-Nay. **Motion Failed.**

Alderman Walsh asks if the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting minutes are approved before they are presented to us. They are not approved yet at this meeting time.

**SCHOOL BOARD:**

Peggy Seeley brings up the lighting at Creekside Junior High School on Highway 41.

The school board meeting talked about a Mandatory Uniform Policy; issues have come out about freedom of speech, and most of the feedback is against having mandatory uniforms. Her vote will be no to the uniform requirement.

Miss Seeley mentions graduations all passed and several award ceremonies are coming up.

The Veterans activity in the Pearl River Park will be this Saturday May 19th 2018 at 11:00am

Mayor McQueen asks to postpone the Executive Session. Alderman Phillips motions to postpone. Alderman Bennett seconds the motion to postpone. All in favor, Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 10:14 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE 2018

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Madeline B Campbell, Town Clerk Clarence D McQueen, Mayor