 June 14, 2018

The following minutes were taken at a Special Council Meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on May 17th, 2018 at the Town Hall in Pearl River.

Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

**Special Meeting for Information and Discussion on specific topics:**

Mayor McQueen introduced Mr. Keith LaGrange of Coastal Management Group. He asked Mr. LaGrange to come here and speak to the Town Council about his engineering services and how he can help the Town of Pearl River with drainage concerns.

**COASTAL MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION:**

Keith LaGrange comes to the podium. He is also the Director of Public Works for St Bernard Parish. He understands our situation regarding budget constraints. He has provided an agenda listing some of his company’s services. This agenda in its entirety is attached to these minutes.

His company goes for these grants in our interest for no charge. They do this in hopes that we award the job to Coastal Management Group.

Community Development Block Grants offer Street Repairs as the category for the largest grant amount. Drainage falls under this. Parks, playgrounds, and retention ponds can be worked into these grants. Hazard Mitigation and storm runoff also areas untouched by Town of Pearl River that these grants cover.

The Town of Pearl River is eligible to receive funding under this grant with a strong possibility to receive because we have not ever used these available funds.

Designing is another grant; it has a 20% match requirement. Most grants require a “strong commitment” from the benefitting entity; Mr. LaGrange said this comes in the form of a Resolution accepted by the Town Council.

He strongly suggests Ordinance and Code Enforcement changes as a top priority. Development of subdivisions and new construction can hinder our drainage systems without proper requirements to be met by builders. He suggests phase work in priority areas. Get grant then go after the design work.

Mayor McQueen has mentioned Sawmill Creek and Craddock Lane to Mr LaGrange, as starting points because these are top priority areas with the most pressing need.

Discussion about need to create Ordinances for all design specifications to require the development to retain an hourly rain amount set high enough so no flooding of system will occur; also include retention pond developments in the ordinances. Then the drainage won’t be hampered with the new developments. Put fees into subdivision and new construction development permits to cover for these kinds of engineering assessments.

Require a review process by a Louisiana Civil Engineer in our code for building permits; Coastal Management Group does this, and Mr. LaGrange can work this up.

Flood plan, Master Drainage Plan costs will be approximately 2/3rd for the survey that will be required. These help identify areas of greatest need, and will allow good priority making plans for overall drainage.

Taylor Farms subdivision planning is outdated. Any development for this property will require new plans, almost a completely new project submittal.

Coastal Management Group is willing to work on the permitting process to include safeguards: plans submitted with a time limit of building to begin, drainage plan included, step for final approval with requirements all being met before issuance in very clear language and costs passed on to requesting developer. With enforceable tools to keep rules all the way through the process from permitting to finished development, in such a way that the turnover to Town of Pearl River is a finished “product” with design specifications outlined and done so Town can be reasonably certain the “product” is good enough and will “perform” as our design specifications require.

Mr. LaGrange will work up time line and steps for us to move forward with his proposals and grants to receive. Louisiana State regulations do not require bidding for professional services; but any construction work resulting from the services will require a bid process for such projects where costs go over $150,000.

**COAST (Council On Aging St Tammany) DISCUSSION:**

Two companies are interested in talking to the Town Council about helping us to market our Senior Center and reach all the possible residents who would be interested including volunteers to help in all the areas the Center would need.

Alderman Walsh wants to have a meeting to determine what is needed and how to approach the task of keeping our Senior Center open and residents having a local place to go. Discussion around when to schedule this meeting to create a plan for execution.

COAST is looking to streamline their services, in particular the transportation and pick up points for residents in the areas around the Town of Pearl River.

The discussion included how to write up the CEA with COAST: what elements to include and how specifically to word the language. This would only be for one year due to the somewhat temporary approach COAST has to their scope of services for the next year.

Alderman Walsh motions to adjourn. Mayor McQueen seconds it.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 7:37 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18h DAY OF JUNE 2018

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Madeline B Campbell, Town Clerk Clarence D McQueen, Mayor