 September 13, 2018

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on August 21, 2018 at the Town Hall in Pearl River.

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

Alderman Phillips 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, Chief Jennings, Attorney Tim Mathison, Attorney Matt Daigle, and Town Clerk, Madeline Campbell were all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Alderman Walsh motions to accept the minutes from the July 17th, 2018 regular council meeting for approval, Alderman Bennett seconds the motion. Several requests were made to make changes by Alderman Bennett and Alderman Cutrer. Mayor McQueen asks for the council to table the minutes for these corrections. Alderman Cutrer motions to table the 7/17 minutes; Alderman Phillips seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS & COMMENTS:

1. Alderman Bennett – Recognition of Gus Bordelon for volunteerism

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Mayor McQueen opens the public hearing on Ordinance #18-08-01 Annexation of 64129 Hwy 41, Church of the Nazarene. Alderman Phillips motions to open the discussion. Alderman Bennett seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.** Mr. Gene Bellisario, parish council District 9, comes to the podium with specifics of the parish’s process to annex this property in GMA. Discussion continues between Gene, Attorney Mathison regarding the procedure to annex from the local process through the parish process. Goal is to allow the church to have this process completed as soon as possible. Mayor McQueen asks if there is any more discussion. None, so he closes the public hearing. Mayor turns to the council for their wishes. Alderman Bennett makes a motion to accept Ordinance #18-08-01 to Annex the Church of the Nazarene property as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Alderman Cutrer seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mayor McQueen introduces proposed amended 2018 Budget. The next regular meeting will have discussions about proposed amended 2018 Budget.
2. Mayor McQueen opens a public hearing about Ordinance #18-08-02 Reduced Water Rates for Elderly, Low Income & Handicapped residents. He requests the council to look this draft over, make suggestions to Attorney Mathison, then voting and acceptance can take place at the next regular meeting. Consider elements: percentage reduction or flat rate, who “approves” the applications, specific conditions/requirements to meet, duration.
3. A Concerned Citizen’s Request to Speak: Miss Leigh Lavigne comes to the podium. Mayor McQueen asks if this is in reference to the trailer Miss Nina lives in. Leigh answers yes. Mayor states he wants to give a status update of the situation first. Planning & Zoning Commission did their research on this; there was a variance given for the camper trailer. No one wants to move Miss Nina out; everyone wants to see her settled permanently with nothing open to worry about. The zoning status is not clearly determined on the maps. All on council agree to research the zoning status and set with permanency for assurance that Miss Nina can stay as long as she wishes. Mayor determines to let the Planning & Zoning Commission to continue the research and process to make the variance permanent.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS & REPORTS:**

Alderman Cutrer reports on Riverside Elementary Literacy Night with Keep Pearl River Beautiful coloring and reading books. We received approval of our KPRB trash receptacles; we received the Lt Governor’s award for our Keep America Beautiful affiliation and Cleanest City Contest participation; and KAB will send compensation for attending their regional conference.

Alderman Bennett mentions an event on September 22nd for the River cleanup. A Chili Cook-Off will be coming in November. This will benefit PRHS cross country team.

Senator Beth Mizell has presented us with an invitation to participate with “The Wall That Heals”. On November 15th this traveling exhibit will be coming through Pearl River on Highway 41 heading to Franklinton Fair Grounds. We are asking for participation with people lining the route to show honor and respect for our veterans.

Alderman Phillips comments on the LMA 81st Annual Convention in Lake Charles, LA attended by the Mayor, Aldermen and Town Clerk. He reported details on some of the seminars and presentations like Lt Governor’s state slogan “Feed Your Soul”. One thing he noticed was a lack of awareness with legislators regarding the One Lake Project, the Pearl River Basin Project. He wants to provide the information for anyone interested.

**CHIEF JENNINGS COMMENTS & REPORTS:**

Chief reports on the arrest activity for the month of July. October 12th, 2018 from 6:00pm through 9:00pm PD will host a “Night Out Against Crime”. SROs are now in all the Pearl River schools. Little Pearl has a detail officer working this school; it means possibly a different officer each time. He reports on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s report: he reports about the PD’s fuel cards and expenses; citation issuance and policies in place.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS & REPORTS:**

Mayor McQueen shows the Lt Governor’s award. He references the LLA report as well; our write up noted policy and procedure deficiencies. They issued the report based on not seeing a policy and procedure book including all areas. He spoke about the fuel usage and the mistake made regarding travel expense.

The Senior Citizens Center is scheduled to open on September 10th, 2018 at 8:30am, with an early registration on August 27th from 10:00 – 12:00noon. Attendance numbers must remain around 30 people.

The meeting on the One Lake Project was not very informative regarding how this will affect our area. We need more information on how the project will change our river. Please get involved to voice concerns and ask questions. Town Hall has the contact information.

Mayor gives the update on Hwy 41 Spur. Ownership of the creek bed has been resolved. We get weekly updates from the contractor. Takes 3 weeks for the appraisals, then a 30 day negotiation period.

**RECREATION DISTRICT 5:**

Peter Finger comes to the podium. The boat landing plans have been submitted, and in process to make the improvements. There is a CEA in the works with the School Board to raise funds and give the PRHS track lighting for hosting track meets and other team practices and events; as well as making the area available for town residents to use.

Mayor McQueen presented the Quarterly Financial reports to the council. He is making these available for council to review particularly for the next meeting’s 2018 Budget proposed amendments.

**FIRE DISTRICT 11:**

Jack Dockery could not be here tonight; he sent a report of the activity in July. Report attached.

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

Gene Bellisario had three items, but two were covered already (the Spur update, the Church annexation). He presents a map of an eight hour road closure on T.J. Smith for a filming company to operate.

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

The Board met and chose to recommend Mr. Mike Walker to fill their vacancy, and Ms. Antoinette Trascher to fill an alternate position on the board. Alderman Walsh makes a motion to receive Mr. Walker in a 4year term position on the Planning & Zoning Commission Board, and to receive Ms. Trascher in an alternate 4year term position on the Planning & Zoning Commission Board. Alderman Cutrer seconds the motion. All in favor, Aye. **So Moved.**

**SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 8:**

Peggy Seeley did not make the meeting.

Mayor McQueen apologizes to the people for his outburst.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:11 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018

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Madeline B Campbell, Town Clerk Clarence D McQueen, Mayor