



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2019 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 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Aldermen Walsh, Bennett, Lee, Galloway, McGregor along with Mayor McQueen, Chief Sessions, Attorney Mathison and Attorney Daigle. Absent: None

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Alderman Galloway.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DISCUSSION:

1. Amended Ordinance No. 174-A Sewer and Water Use.

Attorney Daigle explained to the Council that even though the Sewer/ Water Ordinance No. 174-A was amended there was nothing in place for the Commercial sewer rates. He stated a formula was created to keep the cost of sewer the same for small commercial establishments but as a business was larger the sewer rate would increase with the water usage.

The Commercial sewer rate would consist of any water usage of 15,000 gallons or below to be billed a thirty dollar (\$30.00) per month flat rate fee.

And any water usage over 15,000 gallons would be billed a thirty dollar (\$30.00) per month flat rate fee for the first 15,000 gallons and an additional one dollar and seventy-five cents (\$1.75) fee for each 1,000-gallons above the 15,000 gallons.

Attorney Daigle also asked the Council to address two other amendments No. 20 & 21 in Ordinance No. 174-A referring to them as in housekeeping. No. 20 states that in the event a meter is not working the fee charge will be the average of the prior two months bill. No. 21 states that if a citizen is instructed to run their water due to brown water the Mayor may issue a credit on their bill. The owner must notify the Town within two weeks of the occurrence.

Alderman Bennett wanted to send a robo call, place a message on Facebook, and put a notice on Sewer/Water bills to notify citizens of the metered rates beginning.

Alderman Walsh wanted to mail a letter out to each citizen notify of the metered rates beginning.

Both Alderman Walsh and Alderman Bennett asked for the Mayor to find a cost estimate for the mail out.

2. Ordinance No. 18-11-01 2019 Budget

The Mayor called for a Public Hearing for the next Council Meeting January 18th at 7:00 pm for Ordinance No. 18-11-01 Capital Budget for 2019.

Alderman Walsh reference Employee raises in the Budget.

The Mayor explained to Alderman Walsh that by March the Town will have a better total on monies and he planned to make final decisions on employee raises then.

Alderman Walsh then asked about monies in Recreation 5 for the boat launch project.

Attorney Daigle interjected and asked the Council if they would mind if he explained the budget to the newer members of the Council. He then proceeded to explain the different departments: General, Police Department, Streets, Sewer, & Water and how they work.

Mayor McQueen then explained to Alderman Walsh that he put \$1,500.00 in Recreation 5 until March if they match it with \$1,500.00 then it would give them a few thousand dollars to work with. The Mayor had to cut several areas to make the Budget work.

Alderman Walsh then asked about the project on Peach Street, if the town had a cost and when will the project begin.

The Mayor stated an engineer is doing a drawing now in order for the Town to get bids on the Peach Street project and is hoping everything will be done by the time school is out. The town will do the sub surfacing and sidewalks. This is the Mayor's main goal and wants to have it done by this year.

Alderman Walsh then asked Tim Mathison the yearly cost and a link on the website.

Attorney Mathison stated he would obtain the cost and that a link was on the town's website.

Alderman Walsh then asked about the Radio Communication in the General Fund and in the Police Department. Attorney Daigle then explained the payment wasn't made when it was in the Police Department in 2017 so they decided to keep it in the General fund and that it was a yearly bill.

Alderman Walsh then asked about the Fiscal year in changing it from January to December to July to June. Attorney Mathison explained that the lag time on actuals would be the same and you will always be behind. Attorney Daigle stated that the transition would be difficult to figure when you would change it.

Alderman Bennett asked about the proposed budget in dealing with drainage and engineering issues if the Mayor has heard anything. The Mayor said he is addressing Sullivan Place and Peach Street.

Alderman Bennett then asked about the dispatchers moving to the 911 Communications dispatch. She then asked about the many vehicles that are parked at the Police Department. Chief Sessions said he was in the process of eliminating the unnecessary vehicles.

Alderman McGregor asked about the utilities and telephone in the Police Department if they should be bundled.

Attorney Daigle explained the codes on the budget to the buckets in corresponding that he felt it wasn't a good idea to move them around but the final decision belong to the Chief.

Alderman Lee asked the Mayor if he was moving the building maintenance out of the Police Department to General. The Mayor responded after March he would consider it and if there were any more questions on the budget.

The Mayor then stated by the next meeting on the 15th the Council needed to pick a Mayor Pro Tempore. He recommended that it should only be one Mayor Pro Tempore for the four year term.

Alderman Lee stated he felt it should go to the alderman that received the highest vote and that was Alderman McGregor.

Alderman Walsh and Alderman Galloway agreed.

The Mayor stated it was open on the floor.

Alderman Walsh nominated Alderman Mc Gregor for Mayor Pro Tempore, seconded by Alderman Lee. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

The Mayor asked the Council to reappoint the town attorney Tim Mathison for the next four years. Alderman Walsh made the motion, seconded McGregor **All in Favor. So Moved.**

The Mayor asked the Council to reappoint Mathieu Daigle to be the Magistrate/ Attorney for the town. Alderman Bennett made the motion, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

Alderman Bennett made a motion to discuss the Pearl River parade, seconded by Alderman Walsh. Alderman Bennett asked if the Mayor, all the alderman, and Police Chief would be interested in riding a float in the Pearl River Parade showing unity. Everyone was agreed it was a good idea. Alderman Walsh stated she might not be able due to a previous engagement.

Discussion of the Official Journal and the Town Clerk was decided to be voted on the January 15, 2019 Council Meeting.

Alderman Bennett informed the Council that the planning for the 5K and the Festival has started.

Discussion of the Conference room and its availability.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:03 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2019.


Cheryl K. Schultheis


Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen

For more information CD available upon request.