



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
June 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to the order by Mayor McQueen at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Alderman Bennett.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor McQueen.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor McQueen called for the approval of the minutes for May 21, 2019. Alderman Bennett made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Walsh. **All in favor. So moved.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 21-05-19 (1) Prohibiting the Discharge of Firearms within the Town limits to the floor and the Council.

**DISCUSSION:**

- **Alderman Bennett** asked Attorney Mathison if the council should consider just amending the original ordinance instead of creating a new ordinance to help the Town Clerk with record keeping. She stated that she agreed that it ensured the protection of the Second Amendment and that it mentioned not to infringe on the rights of the citizens.
- **Attorney Mathison** stated his thought was that it would be the most recent expression of the Council on this issue which would be best as a new ordinance instead of amending the original ordinance.
- **Attorney Daigle** stated he was asking as Citizen Mathieu Daigle "Would the ordinance pertain to a Red Rider BB gun can't be shot in the back yard without someone getting a ticket?"
- **Attorney Mathison** stated yes there would be a fine.

- **Alderman Walsh** stated she felt it should be in the discretion of the police officer answering the call to decide if a ticket should be warranted.
- **Candy Walters** stated she was sitting on her carport a couple of months ago and some kid was shooting an air soft gun at a tree and it ricochets and hits her under the carport. She doesn't feel she should have to worry where to sit at outside if a kid is shooting a BB gun.
- **Attorney Mathison** stated the idea of this ordinance was not to change the law that has been on the books for a long time but to add the firearm component.
- **Attorney Daigle** stated he was now talking as Magistrate that the ordinance would be when someone comes before him then as Judge he would use his discretion to decide if the act was in violation of the ordinance and if the citation should have been issued.
- **Alderman Walsh** asked if there was something in place if a child was shooting an air rifle while their parents were at work. Who would get the summons?
- **Deputy Hunter** stated the parents would get the summons for a child depending on the age of the child.
- **Mayor McQueen** asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to speak further. He then asked the Council. He closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 21-05-19 (1) Prohibiting the Discharge of Firearms within the Town limits. A motion was made by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Bennett. All in Favor. **So Moved.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to Ordinance 21-05-19 (2) The rezoning of Peach Street from R-3 to R-1-A to the floor and the Council.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- **Debbie Hebert** asked the Mayor to explain the difference between Zoning R-1-A and R-3.
- **Mayor McQueen** explained that R-1-A restricted mobile homes, trailers, and modular homes and allowed single family residences only. R-3 mobile homes were permitted and multi- family residences and apartments are allowed.
- **Alderman Galloway** explained there were only single residence homes on Peach Street and the residents on Peach Street wanted to keep it like that so they wanted to change the zoning from R-3 to R-1-A.
- **Alderman Bennett** agreed with Alderman Galloway stating no one was trying to prohibit any one or change anything that they residents just wanted to keep it as single family residences.
- **Alderman Walsh** agreed that it was a good thing to change the zoning from R-3 to R-1-A.
- **Mayor McQueen** asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to speak further. He then asked the Council. He closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 21-05-19 (2) The rezoning of Peach Street from R-3 to R-1-A. A motion was made by Alderman Walsh, seconded by Alderman Lee. All in Favor. **So Moved.**

## Tabled Items:

- **Alderman Walsh** motioned to move off the floor to open for discussion the Council to make the St Tammany Farmer the official journal for the Town of Pearl River.
- **Mayor McQueen** asked the Council for a motion to add to the agenda the accepting of the St. Tammany Farmer to be the official journal for the Town of Pearl River. A motion was made by Alderman Bennett, seconded by Alderman Galloway. **All in Favor. So Moved.**

## LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

- **Alderman Walsh- Trains**  
Alderman Walsh spoke about the trains blocking all three railroad crossings and wants the town to try to work with the train authorities to come to an agreement. Alderman Bennett told of periods when school buses were blocked and were late for school.  
Mayor McQueen stated he spoke to Sharon Hewitt to set up a meeting between the train authorities and him so they could work out a solution to the problems caused by the trains. The train authorities stated they needed some form of documentation of the closings before they would meet with him. The Mayor stated the Town needed to start documenting the incidents so he could present them to the train authorities at the meeting. The Mayor asked the Council and residents to please submit any incidents they see with the trains and to note the day and time of the incidents and to please submit them to the Town Hall.
- **Alderman Lee- Fourth of July Celebration**  
Alderman Lee reminded everyone about the Fourth of July Celebration taking place in front of the Town Hall on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Alderman Lee stated he was touched by the outpouring support and contributions donated by the community and businesses.
- **Alderman Bennett- The Honey Island Swamp Festival**  
Alderman Bennett notified the residents that the Honey Island Swamp Festival would be Saturday, September 14, 2019, and that the festival would be one day only this year. She stated The committee is currently working on the music line-up for the festival and all food vendors would be non-profit organizations.  
Alderman Bennett then notified the council and residents that the Fall River Clean-up would be the following week after the festival on Saturday, September 21, 2019.  
**Debbie Hebert** asked Alderman Bennett why the festival was only being held one day instead of two. Alderman Bennett responded that it was a lot of extra work on the committee, first responders and it is just as cost efficient to have a one day festival.
- **Alderman Galloway- Blood Drive**  
Alderman Galloway stated that Jesus Name Apostolic Church is holding a blood drive for an eleventh grader on July 6, 2019 that was diagnosed with cancer.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- **Mayor**

Mayor McQueen stated he was going to talk about the Hwy 41 Spur Bridge but decided to let Gene Bellisario-Parish Council speak in reference to it. The Mayor stated he received bad news on Friday about the bridge and has been in contact with Sharon Hewitt-LA State Senator and Larry Sharp and Mr. Wilson of DOTD.

- **Police Chief**

Chief Sessions stated that from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31, 2019 there were 124 tickets written and 33 warnings, 30 arrest and 8 drug arrest.

Alderman Lee asked about the surplus of vehicles and how the list was coming along.

Chief Session stated he was still working on it and will be completed soon.

Alderman Bennett asked about the cameras located at the Boat Launch. Mayor McQueen stated he spoked to Fred Jensen the IT consultant and was working up a solution.

### **PARISH COUNCIL:**

**Gene Bellisario** stated the company that had the contract for the acquisitions of the land CSRS messed up the paperwork. All parcels deeds need corrected compensation amounts and an Act of Deposit Correction needs to be file. The Bradley parcel needs an Order Authorizing Sale of a Judgement of Possession issued by the court. The Stanton and the Polk parcels need to be expropriation.

### **RECREATION DISTRICT #5:**

Peter Finger stated 5<sup>th</sup> District will have a booth at the Fourth of July Celebration with some giveaways and that he thought the Fourth of July Celebration was good for the community.

### **FIRE DISTRICT #11:**

43 Calls

8-MVA

3M/A- Structure Fire

9- Good Intent

3- Grass Fires

8- Dispatched /Cancelled

1-Vehicle Fire

75- Total

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**

Lola Monroe informed the Council of the approval of the minutes from the Public Hearing meeting for the Zoning of Peach Street R-3 to R-1-A that was held on April 24, 2019.

**SCHOOL BOARD:**  
**None**

Mayor McQueen asked the Council and residents to keep Patti Holden's son Adam Holden in their prayers due to upcoming brain surgery.

Alderman Galloway motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Walsh. All in favor. So moved.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
**AT 7:53 P.M.**  
**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18th DAY OF JUNE 2019.**



Cheryl K. Schultheis



Honorable Clarence "David" McQueen