



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 09, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and so called to order by Mayor Lee at 7:00 P.M.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Alderman Galloway.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Alderman Phillips, Franatovich, Moray, Galloway and Schultheis also present, Mayor Lee, Attorney Daigle, Attorney Mathison and Chief Sessions.

RESOLUTION NO: a. R-23-01-01:

A resolution appointing the Town Attorney: Mayor Lee, requesting that Tim Mathison remains as Town Attorney.

Alderman Galloway made a motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Moray. All in favor. So moved.

Alderman Phillips called for a roll call vote; Alderman Phillips, Yea; Alderman Franatovich, Yea; Alderman Moray, Yea; Alderman Galloway, Yea; Alderman Schultheis, Yea.

RESOLUTION NO: b. R-23-01-02:

A resolution selecting the Mayor-Pro-Tempore:

Alderman Galloway made a motion nominate Tim Moray, seconded by Alderman Schultheis. All in favor. So moved.

Alderman Phillips called for a roll call vote; Alderman Phillips, Yea; Alderman Franatovich, Yea; Alderman Moray, Yea; Alderman Galloway, Yea; Alderman Schultheis, Yea.

DISCUSSION ITEM - ORDINANCE NO. 22-12-20

An ordinance relative to an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

DISCUSSION:

This is a workshop for the 2023 budget. There will be a public hearing on January 17, 2023. A new copy of the budget was issued, due to changes in the insurance and utility payments. Health insurance runs

appr \$10,000.00 per year per covered employee. Utilities for the sewer department have increased from appr \$11,000.00 to \$16,000.00 per month.

GENERAL FUND: Alderman Schultheis questioned salaries for the Finance Clerk. Our finance clerk is now full time and a request for increase in pay for the Deputy Clerk during the transition in separating the PD computer system from the Town Hall side. Additional funds were requested for the water department clerk.

Alderman Phillips: Ask do we bid out the custodial service. Currently we do not. Jennifer Miller works part time in the water dept and is also our custodian. To simplify the budget, it is all paid from one (1) line item.

Alderman Moray: Asked for clarified in reference to the \$100,000.00 for park renovations. It is a carry-over from 2022 budget.

Alderman Shultheis: Questioned Mayor Lee's increase in salary. Mayor Lee stated his salary has always been \$53,000.00. Mayor stated his salary has not increased. It is set by ordinance. The actual year end may differ slightly depending when the payroll period ended. We will research the ordinance and make any necessary adjustments. **Computers Costs:** With the current project of separating the PD from Town Hall additional funds were added. We do not expect to exceed the amount in the line item. **Alderman Phillips:** Miscellaneous Income; Donations that are made for a specific event, will remain dedicated to that event.

Alderman Galloway: Asked about park funds. If there will be enough funds to complete the pavilion. Mayor Lee stated a fund raiser may be necessary, to complete some of the park projects. Mayor Lee stated that the sidewalks and catch basins are currently being installed. Alderman Galloway stated that some upgrades such as painting may have to be done by the council. Chief Sessions offered his help as well.

POLICE: The two (2) proposed budgets differ by appr. \$169,200.00. Calls for service have steadily increased. Capt. Dean would like to meet somewhere in the middle. Crime is not going down and costs have increased. The concern is how to meet the bare necessity needs with a lower budget than last year. Mayor Lee's proposal is what he feels the town can afford. That money market funds needs to remain in place for emergencies. The majority of the funds in that account is a surplus from the street fund and must remain dedicated to the street fund.

Chief Sessions: Questioned how previous administrations were able to obtain more funds than they are receiving. Matt Daigle explained that he reviewed the budget for last 8 years. 2015-2016 all the court fines were going directly to the PD budget. Per the auditors this is not allowable. The reality is that the town only generates so much income. Other avenues of revenue need to be explored in order to increase in Police Department's budget. The people of the Town of Pearl River will need to make a choice about what size police department they want to have. The Mayor will support the Police Department if they want to pursue a millage or sales tax to help increase revenue. Other options are to review and renegotiate the SRO contracts.

The Pearl River is growing and both the Police Department and the Town need additional funds to meet the all the needs of the town. The town will be researching other avenues of income, such as grants.

The Police Department is in the process of relinquishing dispatch to the Sheriff's office. This will create some savings in overtime payroll. The Sheriff's fee will have to be added. The exact savings is still unclear. The Police Department now has access to the flock system. It is license plate recognition program, it identify vehicles by make, model and distinguishing marks such as bumper stickers. Mayor Lee will review the outstanding invoices and try to forecast what the surplus will be for the Police Department.

STREET DEPARTMENT: The street millage did not pass. We will be working with the same millage as the PD. The money from the sales tax will go to drainage projects and street repairs. Once the survey is complete we will have the funds to start the necessary projects. Sidewalk repairs on Pine Street are also in the works. Alderman Moray asked about a raise for the workers. Mayor Lee acknowledged the raise. Alderman Shultheis: asked if there are any plans to elevate Craddock Lane? Mayor Lee: Its needs to be elevated, currently we do not have the funds. We can obtain some prices.

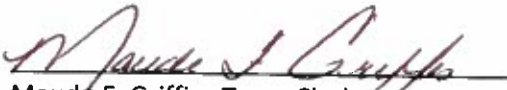
SEWER: Work has begun the sewer main. This project should be complete in appr. 4 months. Installation of the new water meters should also begin this month. Some properties have multiple homes on one (1) meter. The meter will not distinguish how much water is consumed per home. It will charge actual usage. If the property owners wants separate meters, it will be their responsibility and at their expense.

WATER – Other than the meters that have already been discussed. We should see an increase in revenue. The software only read 6 meters. Most residents are paying a flat rate. The total cost to Sustainability is \$60,000.00 per year. We should see well over \$100,000.00 per year with actual use. Maintenance needs to be done on the water towers. We are hopeful that enough funds are generated from the water department to meet the upcoming repairs.

Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 8:50 PM
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.**


Maude F. Griffis, Town Clerk


Honorable Joe D. Lee