



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Council Meeting was held at the Pearl River Town Hall and 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, along with Mayor Lee, Attorney Mathison, Attorney Daigle and Chief Sessions.

**RESOLUTIONS – a.** Resolution R23-01-03 – A Resolution confirming Maude Griffis as Town Clerk. Alderman Galloway made a motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Moray. Mayor Lee called for a roll call vote; Alderman Phillips, Yea; Alderman Franatovich, Yea; Alderman Moray, Yea; Alderman Galloway, Yea; Alderman Schultheis, Yea. **All in favor, So moved.**

**b.** Resolution R23-01-04 - A Resolution appointing Mathieu Daigle as Mayors Court Magistrate. Alderman Schultheis made a motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Moray. Mayor Lee called for a roll call vote; Alderman Phillips, Yea; Alderman Franatovich, Yea; Alderman Moray, Yea; Alderman Galloway, Yea; Alderman Schultheis, Yea. **All in favor, So moved.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO 22-12-20** - An ordinance relative to the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Mayor Lee: Moving forward with the new administration, anyone with a question or statement will be required sign in. It is our goal to have our meetings on the webpage. Floor open for public discussion.

Mayor Lee: The budget has been revisited. Fixed cost stayed in place. Capt. Dean discussed the budget and the needs of the police department as well as possibly adding a sales tax or millage in 2023 to increase revenue.

Bridgett Bennett –Discussed a millage vs sales tax as well as the line item for the boat launch.

Jessica Hanna – Discussed community donations; adding names to the Veterans Wall; The police dept budget and salaries of Town Hall employees.

Mayor Lee clarified his salary that was previously questioned. The ordinance passed in 2017 outlines the current salaries for the Mayor, Chief of Police and Alderman.

Brian Phillips: Asked about moving funds from the water dept to the police dept; and if there any to monitor business working without an occupational license.

Alderman Galloway: Hopeful that enough income will be generated in the water department to cover the upcoming maintenance expenses without having to raise water rates.

Paul Hurley: Would like to keep local police with local knowledge.

Jessica Hanna: Questioned the following - Blighted properties plans; Beautification funds and Capital Expenditures.

Alderman Galloway made a motion to accept the proposed budget; seconded by Alderman Moray. Mayor Lee called for a roll call vote. Alderman Phillips, Yea; Alderman Franatovich, Yea; Alderman Moray, Yea; Alderman Galloway, Yea; Alderman Schultheis, Yea. **All in favor, So moved.**

**FIRE DISTRICT #11 - Chief Dockery-**

EMS- 57	Grass Fire- 2	False Alarm- 74
MVA- 5	Service/GI- 14	Police matter- 6
Vehicle Fire- 1	Dispatched/Canceled- 9	Total – 101

1369 call for the year 2022; The fire department will participate in the parade on February 5, 2023

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

**Mayor Lee** – Reminder of the following upcoming events: Lions Club parade on February 5, 2023; Town clean up on March 18, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at Town Hall; Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 25, 2023 sponsored by Jubilee Foods and Connie Cares. The next council meeting is on Mardi Gras day.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

Alderman Phillips: Suggested a calendar of events/activities that the Town is sponsoring.

Alderman Moray: We need to educate the public on why a millage or sale tax is needed.

**POLICE CHIEF COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Captain Dean gave the December 2022 Police Report

Calls-1264	Felony-8	Search Warrants-2
Open Investigations-23	Misdemeanor-12	Narcotic Arrest- 7
Tickets-175	DWI Arrest-1	Juvenile-3
Arrest-21	Arrest Warrants-7	

Narcotic seized: 3 grams of Methamphetamine, 5 THC Vapes, 1 Adderall pill, 1 Morphine pill, 12 grams of Marijuana. Weapons seized: 2, Currency Seized: 0

Police Commendations were awarded to the following: Stg Peter Hermann, Officer Mike Alquist, Officer Cameron Hillhouse and a certificate of appreciation to Rick Rodrique.

**HONEY ISLAND MUSEUM: Bridgett Bennett**

The museum will hold an earth/nature day on April 29, 2023. Virgil Phillips requested a copy of the financials to be forwarded to the mayor.

**RECREATION DISTRICT #5: Pete Finger:**

Discussed the overview of the engineering contract is to create a topographical map.

**PARISH COUNCIL DISTRICT 9: No Representative**

**SCHOOL BOARD: No Representative: Dr. Mike Peterson:**

Introduced a reading program for students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading below basic reading.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION: - Virgil Phillips:**

No meeting last week due to a lack of quorum. There is 1 opening for the board as well as an alternate.

Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**AT 8:27 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023**

  
Maude Griffis, Town Clerk

  
Honorable Joe D. Lee