



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 16, 2024, 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, also present; Mayor Lee and Attorney Tim Mathison and Chief Sessions

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Lee called for the approval of the minutes for the March 11, 2024, Council Meeting. Alderman Phillips, made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Franatovich. 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.**

Mayor Lee called for the approval of minutes for the March 19, 2024, Council Meeting. Alderman Phillips; made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Franatovich. Alderman Schultheis requested that the title of the Tree Ordinance be corrected to read "New Residential and Commercial" 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.**

**Resolutions** – Resolution R24-04-01 – A resolution relative to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit.

Alderman Schultheis, made the 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. 24-03-19 – 2023 Final Budget**

The budget had a few line item changes. The fiscal year finished with a little over 2 million dollar surplus. The 2024 projected fund balance is approximately 5.2 million; Alderman Schultheis, made the 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.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS & REPORTS – Mayor Lee:** With the recent storm, it was nice to see all departments come together the Police, Street crew and Public Works come together. Great job all the way around. The gazebo is almost complete as well as the smaller pavilions. All should be complete by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Town is looking for options for residents to rent/buy key fobs for the bathrooms due to the continued vandalism. Lt. Jason Germann, stated that they have been patrolling the park after hours as well.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS & REPORTS – Alderman Phillips;** Inquired about the status of the traffic study near the Honeycomb Preschool. The traffic study is currently underway. Reminder that the Honey Island Museum’s Sweet Tea event is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 – 1:00; Faith on the Field is run thru FCA (Fellowship Christian Athletes, everyone is invited on May 17 at 5:30 pm; Our July 4<sup>th</sup> event will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Galloway; stated that she ran for office over 5 years because she had a vision for this town which is close to being complete., but now we have a bigger problem; Our Town’s elected officials work is not being recognized because of complaints against our Town Clerk. I have already had a dealing with her that was addressed with the Mayor. I requested that she (the Town Clerk) come outside to talk to my sister who had a crushed leg about her insurance. Her response was “I don’t do that”. I addressed it with Mayor and he said that was unacceptable. It didn’t get any better. Over the last two months things have gotten worse. Comments are on face book. Just last week my 80 yr old aunt, came in to pay for Brenda’s Insurance and asked Maude “how to fill in the payable to” and was told “I don’t do that” Aunt Marie said “but I don’t know what to write. Aunt Marie said Maude didn’t even look up, and said Town of Pearl River and handed her the check. Alderman Galloway said she didn’t join this to mistreat anybody. I am requesting that you help people to the best of your ability and respected.

The Town Clerk (Maude) requested to address her complaint. The day that Alderman Galloway came and requested that I go outside to explain the insurance to her sister, was a court night. Alderman Galloway asked me “Do you have time to go explain the insurance to her” I said no, we are preparing for court. The issue with writing the check; her Aunt Maria asked me to write her check. I told her I do not write out other people’s personal checks.

Mayor Lee stated that the office is short handed and the office staff is slammed. Anyone who would like to come and see what they do is welcome. They are doing a great job.

Alderman Schultheis; I think Maude is very nice, but I get complaints about her every day. I would also like to address the drainage issues. Mayor Lee sent the street crew out to blow out the culverts. PEC has been contacted and the order has been submitted to begin the work

### **POLICE CHIEF COMMENTS & REPORTS – Chief Sessions:**

**Lt. Jason Germann gave the March 2024 monthly report: See attached for complete report.**

### **FIRE DISTRICT 11 – CHIEF DOCKERY – No Representative**

**RECREATION DISTRICT #5 – TARA JIMENEZ - No Representative**

**PARISH COUNCIL DISTRICT #9 – DAVID COUGLE:** Discussed the ongoing drug problem; The Parish passed an emergency directional boring ordinance; May 2 is the library board elections; Nov 2024 sales tax will be on the ballot, It is an extension of the current tax. We are looking into expanding Rec District 5

**SCHOOL BOARD – MIKE PETERSON: No Representative**

**PLANNING & ZONING – SKIP PHILLIPS: No Report at this time.**

**CD's available to purchase.  
MEETING ADJOURNED  
AT 7:50 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THE 21st DAY OF MAY 2024**

  
Honorable Joe D. Lee

  
Maude Griffis, Town Clerk



# PEARL RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jack Sessions, Chief of Police

## The Month of March

Total Calls Handled: 1915

Open Investigations: 5

## Notable Arrest

In the month of March, the Pearl River Police Department developed a suspect for the cooper thefts that occurred at the beginning of the year at the new Last Chance gas station. A warrant was obtained, and the suspect is currently in custody of the Pearl River County Sheriff's office on unrelated charges. When the suspect is released from the Pearl River County Jail, the suspect will be arrested in Louisiana. The Pearl River Police Department also developed a suspect for the stolen Skid Steer that was taken from Last Chance gas station at the end of December of 2023. An arrest warrant should be obtained by the end of next week.

## Arrests

Total Arrest: 23      Felony: 1      Misdemeanor: 20      Juvenile:2

DWI Arrest: 2      Arrest Warrants: 4      Search Warrants:0

Narcotic Arrest: 4      Narcotic seized: 36 grams of Marijuana.

Weapons Seized:  
Currency Seized: 0.

Total Citations: 523 (392 of which were for speeding)