



**TOWN OF PEARL RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2022 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 Bennett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray, Walsh, along with Mayor Lee, Attorney Mathison, Attorney Daigle and Chief Sessions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Lee called for the approval of the minutes for the November 15, 2022, Council Meeting. Alderman Bennett, made the motion to accept, seconded by Alderman Moray. **All in favor. (Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray and Walsh). So moved.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Alderman Bennett – Presented an award to the Lions Club for their service to the community.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – Ordinance No. 22-12-20- An ordinance relative to the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. There will be a workshop on January 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM as well as a public hearing on this ordinance on January 17, 2023

RESOLUTIONS – a. Resolution R22-12-01 – A Resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the election held in the Town of Pearl River, State of Louisiana on Tuesday November 8, 2022. Alderman Walsh made a motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. (Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray and Walsh). So moved.**

b. Resolution R22-12-02 A Resolution appointing Skip Phillips to the Pearl River Planning & Zoning Commissions. Alderman Walsh made a motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. (Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray and Walsh). So moved.**

c. Resolution R22-12-03 – A Resolution appointing Tara Jimenez to the Pearl River Planning & Zoning Commissions. Alderman Walsh made a motion to accept; seconded by Alderman Bennett. **All in favor. (Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray and Walsh). So moved.**

Tabled Item – Ordinance No. 22-09 -20 (B) – An ordinance relative to the annexation of property along Pump Slough, Pearl River, LA 70452, as petitioned by Honey Island Nature Park , L.L.C.; Alderman Walsh made a motion to take this Ordinance off the table; seconded by Alderman Galloway. All in favor. (Alderman Bennett, Hanna, Galloway, Moray and Walsh). So moved.

FIRE DISTRICT #11 – No Representative

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

MAYOR LEE: Thanked everyone who participated in the Christmas Program; special thanks to the Police Department and Fire Department. Reminder: of the upcoming Lions Club parade on February 5, 2023. We also started work in the park to make it wheelchair accessible as well as installing catch basins. Special thanks to all the outgoing council members.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS: Alderman Bennett: Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the council for the past 8 years; Update on the Nick Livingston trial. One of the three involved was charged as an accessory to the crime and was sentenced to 10 yrs. Others involved still awaiting trial. She also shared a personal experience with a neighbor. Her neighbor approached her home with a gun. Pearl River Police were dispatched. Officer Peter Hermann was the only officer available to respond. The incident lasted appr 2 hours. Safety of our Town is an important issue. Keep that in mind when reviewing the upcoming budget.

Alderman Hanna: Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve this last year and congratulated the new council, with a special thanks to Alderman Bennett and the Police Department for all of their hard work and hopes that the clean-up programs continue.

Alderman Walsh: Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the council since 2005. She will continue to be involved and attend meetings.

Alderman Galloway: She is going to miss the out- going council as well. Special thanks to our street crew for their efforts and hard work decorating for Christmas. Connie Cares participated at the Senior Center with clothing and toys for children in need. A special shout-out and thanks to Senator Sharon Hewitt for the assistance with roof repairs for a senior in need.

POLICE CHIEF COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Captain Dean gave the November 2022 Police Report

Calls- 952

Open Investigations-6

Tickets-122 (78 speeding – 6 in a school zone)

Arrest-17

Felony-7

Misdemeanor-9

DWI Arrest-1

Arrest Warrants-1

Search Warrants-1

Narcotic Arrest- 3

Juvenile-3

Narcotics seized: 3 grams of Heroin and 3 THC Vapes

Notable Arrests

On 11/9/2022 at Creekside Junior High School, SRO Sgt Perkins was notified of a possible threat to the school. 2 witnesses stated that they heard a student state “he hated the school and wanted to see how to make a bomb to blow up the school”. The student was placed under arrest for Terrorizing.

In the near future the Police Department plans to undergo active shooter training at the high school.

Chief Sessions: From the audience – Coming into the new-year it is crucial that the Police Dept budget is considered. For the past 4 years they have managed on a shoestring budget and not spent a single dollar on anything that was not necessary. Previous administrations had a lot more money to operate on. Before our budget is defunded, please reconsider and let’s negotiate.

HONEY ISLAND MUSEUM: - Virgil Phillips: Field trip with 6th Ward Elementary we had about 45 students. All had a good time. Mr. Phillips thanked the out-going council as well as the Lions Club for stepping up to organize the parade. Without them the parade would have faltered.

RECREATION DISTRICT #5: Pete Finger: Thanked the out-going council and who participated this past year. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Alderman Walsh for have her assistance to the Rec District. National Coastal Restoration Group plans to revamp 4 boat launches. Unfortunately, none of our 3 boat launches are included. Currently we are working with Senator Hewitt and the Lt. Governor’s office for assistance in the needed repairs.

PARISH COUNCIL DISTRICT 9: Mike Smith: Thanks to all that are stepping away and to those that are staying. We are in the process of approving the budget. Projects are triaged and completed in priority order. Answered questions about the increase in the cost of water billing if a private company takes over utility management. When a private company takes over, rates go up to compensate for cost of the takeover. Suggestion is to talk to Senator Hewitt about available funds. You must be able to prove that you can recuperate the money you invested.

SCHOOL BOARD: No Representative

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION: - No Representative

Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting.

CD available in Records room, per-request.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 8:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023



Maude F. Griffis, Town Clerk



Honorable Joe D. Lee