

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 271 GUIDROZ STREET, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present: Mayor, Kathy M. Richard
Aldermen: Annette Bramlett, Jamie Huval, Todd Meche, Louis Stelly, Jr., Suzanne Stelly
Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux
Attorney: Katie Ryan
Engineer: Kenny Boagni
Police Chief: Eddy LeCompte
Utility Superintendent: Todd Abshire (Absent)
Parks and Recreation: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Richard
Prayer: Annette Guidry
Pledge: All

Accept August 15, 2017 Public Hearing Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the August 15, 2017 Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Louis Stelly Jr., unanimously carried.

Accept August 15, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Louis Stelly, Jr., moved to accept the August 15, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Accept August 2017 Expenses—Mayor

Annette Bramlett moved to accept the August 2017 Expenses seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

A Report for the utility department was given to the Mayor and the Council.
Advertisement for hiring a Utility Superintendent has been published.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor explained that all is going well at the park.

Police Chief—Eddy LeCompte

Dispatcher Trent Mouton is currently enrolled in the St. Martin Police Academy. The date currently planned for graduation is November 15, 2017. Mr. Mouton was elected class president by his peers for the current academy class.

At the end of next month, Halloween will once again be celebrated. Many children from the surrounding area descend within the Town limits to partake in the celebration and the harvesting of candy. During the celebration the Police Department is faced with an uncommon amount of traffic congestion. While most of the town is spread out enough to handle the congestion, the Northwest corner of town is a problem. The streets of Quebedeaux, Swamp and Washington pose a problem due to the compact area where they are located. It is proposed to make these streets a one way during the hours of Halloween celebration. The Department will canvas this area to gain input from the residents to see if such an arrangement is feasible and acceptable to them. Once they gather the information he will inform the Council of the findings during the October meeting.

Chief asked the council to pass an Ordinance to create the position of Sergeant within the Arnaudville Police Department. Along with the creation of this position also request the positions of Captain and Deputy Chief also be added to the Ordinance in order to save time should any of these positions open in the future. Since a Council Member must introduce such an Ordinance, he request that one of the

Council Members do so at this meeting in order that a Public Hearing can be scheduled for the next month's meeting and a vote can be taken.

On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, a Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled at the Community Center. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. A couple of speakers are being scheduled to discuss topics of possible interest. Refreshments will be available and everyone is invited.

Statistics for the Department for the month of August 2017 were: 56 Citations, 21 FIC's, 58 MIC's written, 5 arrests, 164 calls for service.

Employee of the month is Dianna Richard.

Jamie Huval introduced an Ordinance by title to add positions of Sergeant, Captain and Deputy Chief to the current Pay Grade Classification Ordinance, schedule a Public Hearing at 5:45 P.M. October 17, 2017 seconded by Todd Meche, unanimously carried.

Up-Date on Blighted Property—Mayor Richard/Cooney Richard

Mayor Richard stated that Mr. Cooney shared valuable information at the August 2017 meeting. Mayor Richard asked that all work together, it was said nothing was done for 2 years. She stated that letters were sent out for the blighted properties. Some individuals took care of their problem, whereas others did not. Mayor stated that there are legalities that have to be followed once these letters are sent out. The town does not have the equipment to take care of liens and whatever else. Mayor said if the attorney would take the responsibility, this is all she would spend her time doing. This is why Mr. Cooney with Building Code Inspection Services would step in to assist with these blighted properties. Mr. Cooney said that he works for several municipalities whether large or small. He also explained different techniques that he uses for blighted property. Mayor asked the board to possibly have workshops before getting on board with Mr. Cooney. Mayor asked Mr. Cooney to give an example of the law about grease traps, Mr. Cooney stated that grease traps are checked by building inspections no longer checked by DHH.

Todd Meche moved to open the meeting to the public seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Mr. Amar Bonin questioned Mr. Cooney about a situation in Butte Larose having personal dump.

Jamie Huval moved to re-enter into the Regular Meeting seconded by Todd Meche, unanimously carried.

Mayor asked the council to start working with Mr. Cooney, having workshops before any contracts are signed. Annette Bramlett moved to hire Mr. Cooney to help the Mayor and the Council along with the town Ordinance in reference to the blighted property also having a meeting in the next week.

Todd Meche questioned if Mr. Cooney was going to do the permits and the blighted property. Mr. Cooney stated that he will be doing both. Mr. Cooney stated that he would like to have a property management code book adopted. Mayor said she would like to have some workshops before Mr. Cooney is hired on. Annette tabled her motion.

Blighted Property—Jamie Huval

Jamie Huval stated that he presented a list of blighted properties at last month's meeting; he just wanted an up-date. Mayor stated that they will be working with Mr. Cooney on the blighted properties.

Up-Dates—Katie Ryan

Katie said that an individual with a business decided not to purchase an Occupational License, this individual is intentionally not paying. Katie feels that legal action should be considered. Todd Meche motioned to proceed with legal actions seconded by Annette Guidry, unanimously carried.

Katie stated that all legal fees will be incurred by the business owner.

LRWA Conference (November 3rd and 4th)—Mayor

Mayor explained that she sits on the Louisiana Rural Water Board; she has to attend a conference in North Carolina. Louisiana Rural Water will incur expenses for the mayor. It was advised that someone from the clerical division should also attend the meeting, such as the clerk. Mayor asked the Council to

approve her flight costing approximately \$600.00; Todd Meche moved to accept the recommendation of the Mayor seconded by Annette Guidry and Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Ordinance 04-2017 1% Gas, Water and Sewer Rate Increase—Mayor Suzanne Stelly

Suzanne Stelly read Ordinance 04-2017 in its entirety. Suzanne Stelly moved to accept Ordinance 04-2017 seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., Roll Call: Annette Bramlett, yea, Todd Meche, Nay, Jamie Huval, Nay, Louis Stelly Jr., Yea, Suzanne Stelly, Yea.

Resolution 02-2017 Louisiana Municipal Natural Gas and Distribution Authority (Director and Alternate)—Mayor

This Resolution is to allow an alternate to serve on the board if the Mayor cannot be present. This is a re-appointment for Annette Bramlett. Todd Meche moved to accept Resolution 02-2017 seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Resolution 03-2017 MWPP R (Environmental Quality)—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept Resolution 03-2017 seconded by Annette Bramlett, unanimously carried.

Drainage Problems—Todd Meche

Todd Meche stated the council had asked Kenny Boagni to look into a drainage problem on East Street. Kenny sent in an Opinion of Probable Cost in the amount of \$215,750.00. Todd said that something needs to be done with this drainage problem on that side of town. Kenny stated that this opinion was to do the entirety of the project starting on the East side all the way to the bayou. Todd asked what would happen if this was to stay and open the ditch and perhaps filling it in later. Kenny said there is a sewer conflict in that area. A small amount of money would be saved but not much of it, maybe \$20,000. Todd asked Kenny if he could perhaps give a different alternative for this project. Mayor Richard said that there is a problem on Hwy 31 with the drainage. There are homes that are lower than the road; they will flood easier than others that are higher than the road. Kenny stated that he will look into another avenue to resolve the problem. Mayor also inquired about the setting of the culverts for individuals. Kenny stated that a permit process would take care of these matters. Annette stated that there are several places in town that have different size culverts which have happened throughout the years.

Ordinances—Todd Meche

Todd handed out copies of the Ordinance which is about water meters. Todd explained that everyone should be on a single meter. A discussion was held at the last meeting about tampering with the meters. There is an Ordinance that pertains to the tampering with the meters. Todd feels that the Ordinance needs to be enforced. Mayor Richard explained that there is no longer anyone in the house and it will not be allowed services until she speaks to the owner.

Todd stated that there was a discussion about the sidewalks in town; the Ordinance reads that the butting owner is the one who maintains the sidewalk. The attorney Katie Ryan stated that there are different interpretations of the Ordinance. It could mean cutting the grass next to the sidewalk, there are several ways to look at this. Mayor stated that there are a couple of sidewalks that are bad in town and would need to be repaired. The insurance company for the town stated that the sidewalks need to be removed. Todd also shared a copy of the Ordinance about junk cars and dilapidated property. Todd also spoke about the 3 blighted properties. Todd Meche moved to enforce the Ordinances that are on the books, in regards to the 3 properties he mentioned seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried. Todd said that most of these properties need to be condemned. Mayor stated that the utility workers will not be clearing properties. The attorney stated that there is removing a building and there is condemning a building. This needs to be cleared by the council about what kind of action the council chooses. If the town takes action and chooses to hire an independent contractor the town would be taken money out of pocket to clean these properties. Katie feels that hiring Mr. Cooney would involve caring about all of the properties. Mr. Cooney stated that the state has a certain procedure that is

followed. Katie stated having Mr. Cooney on board would save the town money. Mr. Cooney stated that he will send the owner a letter and take steps from there.

Citizens' Concerns

Glenn Colon explained procedures they used at the company where he worked about the drainage and blighted properties.

Adjourn

Todd Meche moved to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Kathy M. Richard, Mayor