

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 291 GUIDROZ STREET, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present: Mayor, Todd Meche

Aldermen: Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Cynthia Stelly, Suzanne Stelly

Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney: Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer: Kenny Boagni

Utility Superintendent: Todd Abshire (Absent)

Police Chief: Eddy LeCompte

Parks and Recreation Director: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Meche

Prayer: Suzanne Stelly

Pledge: All

Mayor Meche asked the board to amend the agenda to add Mr. Don Menard (Parish President Candidate) also move the town meeting to the Arnaudville Meeting Room at 107 Rue De Jausiers, Jamie Huval moved to amend the agenda seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Accept August 20, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Accept July 2019 Expenses—Mayor

The expenses for July 2019 were tabled due to a glitch in the computers.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor explained that there were a few sewer plant issues such as the digester motor, but that matter is being corrected.

There is a water leak that needs to be fixed at Myrans Maison De Manger; a contractor is to start next week on repairing the leak.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

On Thursday, August 29, 2019 a Neighborhood Watch meeting was held at the Community Center.

There were several speakers with the special guest being Mr. Charles Cravins of the St. Landry District Attorney's Office. Door Prizes and snacks were available for during and after the meeting.

Chief intends to once again make the streets of Quebedeaux, Swamp and Washington one way on Halloween Night, Thursday October 31, 2019. Attached is a drawing detailing how the flow of traffic will be handled. This inconvenience will only last for approximately two and on half hours (2 ½) from 5:30 until 8:00 P.M. after which normal traffic flow will then resume. It is presented to the Council members early since he will be at a Chief of Police Convention on the date of the next month's Council meeting. He again encourages all citizens who plan on using off road vehicles to stop by his office to register said vehicle to be on the road during the time of Trick or Treating.

Chief petitions the Council to approve the resignation of Dispatcher Cynthia Guilbeau which was effective Saturday, September 7, 2019. Ms. Guilbeau was a good employee who will be missed.

He petitions the Council to approve the hiring of two fulltime Dispatchers Ms. Catherine Benoit and Ms. Christina Clark at a starting hourly rate of \$8.56 per hour (Grade 1 Step 28) and one (1) part time Dispatcher Ms. Raven Jimenez to replace Ms. Ida Lalonde at the same rate of pay, The part time Dispatcher will work five (5) days per week for approximately six (6) hours per day and will serve the needs of filing, handling purchases, keeping the records updated to meet local, parish and state regulations and fill out ill or vacation.

Chief petitioned the Council to approve the transfer and promotion of Dispatcher Taylor Rials Bergeron to the position of Provisional Patrol Officer at a starting hourly rate of \$9.93 per hour (Grade 2 Step 2). Mrs. Bergeron will not assume that position until she has properly helped in the training of the full and part time Dispatchers, which should take no longer than 2 or 3 weeks after they have all passed their physicals and drug screens. At the completion of the report chief handed out packets to the Mayor and Alderpersons that contain recommendations, along with his suggestions on how they might improve the Police Department. He applauded the action of open communication between his Department and the governing body. Without this dialogue it seems at times not everyone is on the same page. Chief stated that he does not like to spring ideas on the Board without their having any foreknowledge of what is going on which is the reason for giving the packets.

Statistics from the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of August were: 11 Citations, 6 FIC's, 1 MIC, 5 arrests and 85 calls for service.

Motion was made by Kevin Robin seconded by Cynthia Stelly to accept the resignation of Cynthia Guilbeau, unanimously carried.

Suzanne Stelly moved seconded by Debbie Kidder the hiring of the 2 dispatchers at \$8.56 per hour, unanimously carried.

Mayor asked if anyone had a motion on the part-time dispatcher, Suzanne Stelly asked several questions to the Chief. Kevin asked if Barry Ard had worked a shift and chief said no he had not due to medical testing. Jamie Huval asked the Chief what was the urgency of having a Special Meeting to hire Barry Ard as a full time officer and that he has not patrolled for a whole month. A discussion was held.

Mayor said that the council votes only with what is recommended by the chief of police. Mayor asked the council to table the reason a full time officer did not get his 84 hours so a discussion could take place with the town attorney.

Debbie Kidder moved to table this issue seconded by Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

Jamie Huval moved to accept the transfer and promotion of Dispatcher Taylor Rials Bergeron to the position of Provisional Patrol Officer at a starting hourly rate of \$9.93 per hour after she helps to train a dispatcher seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Mayor asked for a motion of hiring a part-time dispatcher, NO motion.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor explained the grass is being cut in the park and the dug outs are being repaired.

Water Tower—Mayor Meche

A packet was handed out to the board members; there are lots of repairs needed at the water tower.

The cost can be spread over a five year payment plan or a 7 year payment plan.

This project is not in the budget, the contract will be reviewed by the town attorney and the engineer.

This project would be put into next year budget.

Candidate for St. Landry Parish Assessor—Garrett Duplechain

Mr. Duplechain introduced himself and thanked the board to allow him to speak. Mr. Duplechain explained what his intentions are if elected for the position of Assessor.

Candidate for State Representative—Keith Baudin

Mr. Baudin thanked the Mayor and Board members for allowing him to speak. He introduced himself and explained what he plans to do if elected for State Representative.

Candidate for St. Landry Parish President—Don Menard

Mr. Menard thanked the Mayor and Board Members for allowing him to speak. Mr. Menard also thanked the Arnaudville Fire Department for hosting the black pot cook-off.

Mr. Menard spoke on what his plans are if elected for Parish President.

Moving the Meeting from the Community Center to the Arnaudville Meeting Room at 107 Rue De Jausiers -Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to have the next monthly meeting at the Arnaudville Meeting Room seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Announcements

Kevin Robin stated that Du Bayou has selected a store the store is Ace Hardware, a sign will be hung in front of the store. A news magazine will be set up for this organization.

Citizens' Concerns

Dakota Arnaud inquired about the Insurance on Mr. Barry Ard. The town attorney told Mr. Arnaud that he has threatened legal action against the town and she does not feel that this is an appropriate thing to bring up at a town meeting. Monique Marks expressed her concerns about the town not being protected at night. Mayor stated that the police chief would have to answer these questions.

Jamie stated that there is 3 months chief has not brought anyone to the board to be hired. Kathy Richard asked the Mayor and Board to hold a special meeting; she stated that not having 24 hour protection could hurt the fire rating. Mr. Brody Pierrottie addressed his concerns about not having police protection.

Lisa Huval also expressed her concerns about the chief she said that she has called the police department and was told there was no officer on duty.

Jamie thanked the police officers for a job well done.

Cynthia Arnaud asked how many nights the town did not have police protection, the answer was 15 nights.

Adjourn

Jamie Huval and Kevin Robin moved to adjourn the September meeting seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Attest

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor