

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 17 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present—Mayor Todd Meche

Aldermen—Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Suzanne Stelly

Absent—Jamie Huval and Cynthia Stelly

Town Clerk—Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney—Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer—Kenny Boagni

Police Chief—Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation Director—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order—Mayor, Todd Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Mayor Meche asked the Board Members to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 1-22 Levying Tax Millage, motion was made by Debbie Kidder seconded by Suzanne Stelly to add Ordinance 1-22 to the agenda, motion carried.

Accept December 21, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin motioned to accept the December 21, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Accept January 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes (Police Officer)—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder motioned to accept January 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

Accept December 2021 Expenses—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin moved to accept the December 2021 Expenses seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

A report was handed to the Board Members as per Todd Abshire.

Water-LDH Sanitary Survey deficiencies have been corrected and a letter from the Lafayette LDH office has closed out the findings of this 2-year cycle Survey. The next LDH Sanitary Survey is scheduled for calendar year 2023. The monthly Safe

Drinking Water Act daily chlorine residual logs were verified by Todd Abshire and are on file in the utility office filing cabinet as required by law.

Wastewater-They are still waiting on parts for APT control to repair the SBR #1 decanter pump. The Town of Arnaudville's annual sludge report has been submitted to HoPak for preparation and submittal to LDEQ. The monthly flow records were faxed to HoPak Laboratories to verify flow in accordance with the discharge permit, as well as all analytical results being examined, reported, and filed in the appropriate filing cabinet in the utility department files.

Gas- The annual PLS-OR-1 organizational update form has been submitted to Pipeline Safety for the calendar year 2021. All gas system manuals (Operator Qualification Manual, Public awareness Program, Abnormal Operating Condition Questionnaire and Operation & Maintenance Program) have been reviewed and signed-off on by Superintendent Abshire as required annually by Pipeline Safety. The gas system is operating near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 40 psi at the Koch Station. Tier II chemical storage reports for the water well and sewer plant have been filled with the Louisiana State Police as required annually.

There are parts that are still not in to finish repairing the sewer plant. Kenny Boagni stated that he is still working on getting the street repair project started.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Patrol Officer Christian Deville began attending the St. Martin POST Academy on Monday, January 10, 2022. She will be in training for the next approximately fourteen weeks or longer. Chief is excited for her and wished her good luck. In the meantime he is attempting to cover her shift until new Patrol Officers can be hired. He is also preparing for the upcoming Etouffee Festival to be held on April 29, 30 and May 1, 2022. He will review what was done in the past to see if improvements can be made. Right now there is no indication that the Festival will be cancelled; however, that could change depending on the COVID scare. Chief will keep the Council posted.

Chief petitioned the Council for approval for him hiring three individuals to the position of Patrol Officers. Mr. Luke Begnaud to the position of full-time POST certified Patrol Officer at an hourly pay rate of \$15.07 per hour (Grade 3 Step 5). Mr. Jacoby Briscoe and Mr. Parker Blanchard to positions of full-time Patrol Officers at an hourly pay rate of \$13.09 per hour (Grade 2 Step 26). Note that all three individuals will be placed on a provisional basis of 6 months. Mr. Begnaud has been employed at APD in the past and should be able to assume full patrol activities as soon as his physical and drug screen has been conducted. Mr. Briscoe

and Mr. Blanchard will be able to assume full patrol activities after completing their physicals and drug screens, firearm qualification and training on procedures associated with the Department policies.

Chief informed the Council that we will be going to M.D. Anderson in Houston for further evaluations. He has no idea what the result of these evaluations will mean. Although he was told by his current doctor that the Anderson doctors are very aggressive in their treatment and there is a possibility of surgery. Because of the uncertainty, it is essential that this Council fully staff the Police Department with the recommended candidates. Because candidates often have moved around, and possibly have had negative experiences in previous departments, he and Sergeant Legrand will monitor and closely observe all new hires to determine if they require further training, or if they remain suitable for continued employment here. Chief asked the Council to give these candidates the benefit of the doubt and let him determine if they are worthy for continued employment should they be hired. A Candidate could have a poor recommendation due to a number of factors (for instance, not being liked by his former employer, his or her not liking where they were working, or personal problems which can affect their performance). His personal philosophy regarding referrals stems from knowing that law enforcement agencies are each unique, stressful, and diverse. Staff must learn to adapt to personalities, leadership and environment, which any or all can influence why an officer leaves or why or how leadership retains or disciplines. Chief acknowledges how one officer performs in one agency does not always determine how he will perform in another. The benefit of the doubt is most always preferred, in his opinion and experience.

Chief requests that the Council consider the current situation and realize that the addition of the three candidates that he has recommended will bring the Department to full strength. In addition, \$40.00 per hour for assistance from St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office is enough to pay the salary of two of the new employees, who will ultimately fall under the control and supervision. Statistics for the Police Department for the month of December were: 10 Citations, 2 FIC's, 7 MIC's, 3 arrests, 42 calls for service, 50% of time worked by the Officers was spent on routine patrol of the town. Two individuals were chosen as Employees of the Year for 2021. The Dispatcher chosen for Employee of the year was Ms. Dianna Richard while Patrol Officer was Mr. Chris Ortego. These employees did an outstanding job.

Kevin Robin motioned to hire Jacoby Broussard as a full-time Patrol Officer at \$13.09 per hour (Grade 2 Step 26) seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

Kevin Robin motioned to hire Parker Blanchard as a full-time Patrol Officer at \$13.09 per hour (Grade 2 Step 26) seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor mentioned that the Baseball program is taking place.

Adopt Resolution 1-22 St. Martin Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Up-Date—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder moved to accept Resolution 1-22 seconded by Kevin Robin, motion passed and a roll call was had, Kevin Robin, yes, Debbie Kidder, yes, Suzanne Stelly, yes.

Absent—Jamie Huval and Cynthia Stelly

Abstain—0

Ordinance 1-22 an Ordinance Levying Tax Millage—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin Introduced Ordinance 1-22 A ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE LEVY WITHIN THE TOWN OF ARAUDVILLE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, EFFECTIVE 2022, OF AN AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX (THE “TAX”), MORE SPECIFICALLY A 10 YEAR/7MILLS AD VALOREM TAX; LEVYING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, PAYMENT AND DEDICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX MAY BE EXPENDED, SUCH TAX HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED AT A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 13, 2021 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Kevin Robin motioned calling a Public Hearing for February 15, 2022 at 5:45 P.M. for Ordinance 1-22 Ordinance Levying Tax Millage seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Up-Dates—Mayor Meche

Mayor is hoping the street project will start soon. The Bathroom Project is about 90% complete, should not be too much longer.

Citizens’ Concerns

Adjourn

Kevin Robin moved to adjourn the January 18, 2022 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor