

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JULY 16, 2019 AT THE ARNAUVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 291 GUIDROZ STREET, ARNAUVILLE, 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 (Absent)

**Utility Superintendent:** Todd Abshire (Absent)

**Police Chief:** Eddy LeCompte

**Parks and Recreation Director:** Zelma Jackson

**Called to Order:** Mayor Meche

**Prayer:** Jamie Huval

**Pledge:** All

Cynthia Stelly moved to amend the agenda to remove Dakota Arnaud to address Chief Eddy LeCompte off of the agenda seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

**Accept June 25, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes—Mayor Meche**

Suzanne Stelly moved to accept the June 25, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

**Accept June 25, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche**

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the June 25, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

**Accept June 2019 Expenses—Mayor Meche**

No Financial Statements until next month, the year is being closed out.

**Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)**

Mayor explained that all is going good in the Utility Department. He also thanked the employees for helping during the storm. The Police Department, the Utility Department and the City Hall workers were all acknowledged on a job well done.

**Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte**

Police Officer Kirsten McBay will be starting a Juvenile Academy at the St. Martin Parish Police Academy on Monday, July 22, 2019. The purpose of the training is to give the Department some knowledge in the handling of juvenile incidents within the jurisdiction. Since changes in the law, making all individuals less than 18 years of age juveniles, it was felt that the department should take proactive steps in knowing how to handle juvenile cases that come up. The training will be for two weeks with her projected date of completion being August 2, 2019.

Chief asked the Council to approve the resignation of Part Time Dispatcher/Administration Clerk Ms. Ida Lalonde effective July 4, 2019. Ms. Lalonde has been instrumental in upgrading certain functions of the Department, including updating the filing system and streamlining the purchasing procedures. With the approval of the Council, Chief will attempt to find another individual to handle the many functions overseen by Ms. Lalonde on a part time basis. An asset to this part time position is that the individual can fill in, whenever possible, on the Dispatch desk to cover for illness and vacations without expending overtime costs. Interviewing for this position will begin later this month.

He petitioned the Council to approve Barry Ard returning to a full time position within the Department as a Sergeant with pay of Grade 2 Step 24 (\$12.82 per hour). Having Sergeant Ard on the roster will

greatly enhance the training, improve the day to day operations, and give more opportunity to tweak the policies and procedures. His addition will fill that vacated by Patrol Deputy Amber Arnaud. Should the Council deem it necessary, Mr. Ard can retake the physical and drug screen prior to his coming on full time, which is projected for the end of the this month or shortly after the beginning of the next. Chief is currently revisiting the grant that was placed to procure two Ford SUV Police vehicles. As some already know, the grant was disapproved due to not meeting ADA standards within the Town Hall building. He wishes to again point out that the deficiencies made immediately but rather have a plan of actions in terms of correcting the deficiencies with a projected date of completion. Also, the Town can also apply for a grant to correct the problems they have without spending the full amount for the repairs in one shot. Again, it is important that they accomplish ADA deficiencies in order for the Police Department and Town to be eligible for not only the current grant but for future ones. In an attempt to keep the citizens up- to-date on what the department is doing, they enlisted the help of the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office in investigating some incidences that have occurred recently. Their resources that extend beyond the Town limits will prove to be helpful in the attempts to solve those crimes. Further, a recent burglary occurred at the Family Dollar store on Canal St. Because no alarm was activated the break-in was not discovered until an employee came to open the store for business. The only camera footage of the individual who gained access was taken inside the store and because they had covered their hands and head they were not able to identify anything about them, Knowing how entry was gained and the fact that Family Dollar had no outside surveillance cameras the assumption was made that this burglary was well planned and executed. St. Landry and St. Martin Crime Stoppers to broadcast information about the crime in hopes of getting a lead on the individual or individuals involved. Jamie Huval moved to accept the resignation of Ida Lalonde and thanked Ida for her years of dedication to the town seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

Suzanne Stelly moved to accept the hiring of Barry Ard, Kevin Robin inquired about Mr. Ard's resume as well as Cynthia Stelly. Suzanne's motion was not seconded.

Mayor stated that he is looking into getting the bathrooms up to standards.

Suzanne asked if she should make a motion to get Mr. Ard's resume. Chief stated that he would provide the information requested.

#### **Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson**

Zelma said that Baseball season has ended, work is being done on the dugouts and Football Season is next.

#### **Adopt Ordinance 06-2019. An Ordinance Amending Section 2-97 Letter F to add Nieces and Nephews, Aunts and Uncles—Jamie Huval**

Motion was made by Jamie Huval to adopt Ordinance 06-2019 seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

#### **Adopt Ordinance 07-2019. An Ordinance Amending Section 2:83 Work Conditions Section B (1) Town Holidays to add Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve—Debbie Kidder**

Cynthia Stelly moved to accept Ordinance 07-2019 seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

#### **Exploratory Group Up-Date—Kevin Robin**

Kevin explained that on May 21, 2019 the Exploratory Group was established. Kevin gave an up-grade on how this program will work and what are their intentions.

#### **Establish Christmas Committee, Special Events, Decorating—Jamie Huval**

Jamie Huval explained that this will be established under Bayou Program.

#### **Up-Dates/Announcements—Mayor**

Mayor thanked all of the volunteers that helped in all of the projects that took place and are taking place.

#### **Citizens' Concern**

Delia Kolb stated that there are unsolved crime that has happened and she asked if cameras could be installed at the Community Center. Mayor said he would have to look into the matter.

**Adjourn**

Jamie Huval moved to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by Cynthia Stelly and Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

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Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

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Todd Meche, Mayor