

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, 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

POLICE CHIEF: Eddy LeCompte

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT: Todd Abshire (Absent)

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Meche

Prayer: Suzanne Stelly

Pledge: All

Mayor Meche asked the Board Members to amend the agenda to add St. Landry Solid Waste Executive Director, Mr. Richard LeBouef, Jamie Huval moved to amend the agenda seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, motion carried.

Mayor asked the Board Members to amend the agenda to add up-dated information concerning projects taking place in the town, Cynthia Stelly moved to add the topic to the agenda seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Accept December 17, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes (Reserve Officer)—Mayor Meche

Suzanne Stelly moved to accept the December 17, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes (Reserve Officer) seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Accept December 17, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes (Loud Music)—Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval moved to accept the December 17, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes (Loud Music) seconded by Suzanne Stelly and Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Accept December 17, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval moved to accept the December 17, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

Accept December 2019 Expenses-Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the December 2019 Expenses seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motioned passed.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

A report was given to the Mayor and the Board as per Todd Abshire.

Water

The La Hwy 31 Water improvement Project is moving forward. Bids have been opened and the DOTD permits have been submitted by the engineer. The water system was flushed during the month of December. 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

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 appropriate filing cabinet in the utility department files.

Gas

The gas system is operating near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 40 psi at the Koch Station.

Todd Abshire is working on a water and wastewater rate study as requested by the Mayor; Todd is hoping to have an update during the month of February.

Mayor Meche stated that the drainage project on East Street is moving forward.

Police Report—Eddy LeCompte

Provisional Patrol Officer Jacob Russo began attending the St. Martin POST Academy Tuesday, January 21, 2019. He will be in training for the next fourteen weeks.

He intends to conduct a Neighborhood Watch meeting during the month of March, he will let the Council know when a date has been set.

He is preparing for the upcoming Etouffee Festival to be held on April 24, 25 and 26, 2020. He will review what was done last year to see if improvements can be made. Should any Council or Community member have an idea to enhance the Festival experiences please let the Police Department know. Chief applauded the Mayor on replacing the ramp at the entrance of the Police Department office. The Mayor has assured the Chief that the necessary remodeling of the restroom is being looked into in order to be in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations. The Department was informed that there may be grants available to address the necessary construction work to be done. Without this construction being done he will be prevented from being eligible to receive any government grants.

He petitioned the Council to approve the hiring of Mr. Shamar Smith to the position of Provisional Patrol Officer at a starting pay of \$9.93 per hour (Grade 2 Step 2). Mr. Smith will still need to have a drug screen and physical (passing both) before he will be allowed to begin working full time, on the clock. Concerning drugs screens and physicals, he would like the Council to approve that in the future these can be done prior to asking for approval to hire. As you are aware before approval to hire has been requested a Patrol Officer candidate must pass a four (4) hour psychological exam, be approved for insurance by Risk Management, and have a background check done. If the drug screen and physical can be done during this pre-employment phase then the candidate could begin working as soon as approval is made to hire them. The only delay that might be caused is if the candidate must give their current employer notice before leaving.

Statistics for the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of December 2020: 23 Citations, 0 FIC's, 4 MIC's, 7 arrests made, 109 calls for service.

Two (2) individuals were chosen as Employees of the year for 2019. The Dispatcher chosen for Employee of the year was Ms. Taylor Rials while the Patrol Officer was Mr. Jacob Russo. These employees did an outstanding job during 2019.

Mayor Meche asked the Chief to furnish him with any information he has on the grant he applied for. Suzanne Stelly moved to hire Shamar Smith to the position of Provisional Patrol officer at a starting pay of \$9.93 per hour (Grade 2 Step 2) seconded by Kevin Robin, motion passed.

Chief asked the board to consider doing the drug screening and physical before hiring takes place. Mayor stated that his position unless the Council approves this, he would not allow this because if someone is sent to do these tests before approval and pays for this, if the Council votes not to hire them the town would be paying for a non-existing employee.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor explained that all is going well at the park.

Accept Bids for La Hwy, 31 Water Improvements—Mayor

(Bihm Construction \$48,837.00-E.B. Feucht & Sons, LLC \$45,610.00-Elliott Construction, LLC \$51,830.00)

Jamie Huval moved to accept the low bid of Bihm Construction in the amount of \$48,837.00 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

St. Landry Solid Waste—Executive Director Mr. Richard LeBouef

Mr. Richard explained that he is trying to be pro-active and explained to the Mayor and Board what is going to take place in the future with Solid Waste.

Mr. LeBouef touched base on the many different options, the trash pick-up will go from twice a week to once a week, and it is not decided on what day of the week this will take place just yet. Everyone will be notified. He said he will be as diligent as possible and appreciate what everyone does for them.

Up-Date—Mayor Meche

Mayor said that he has discussed with the board about the disposal of the old Museum building he spoke with Mr. Ken Douet, Kevin Robin also spoke with Mr. Douet. Mr. Douet wants to take the building and have it moved to the Stephanie Plantation. In a few days he (Mr. Douet) will be signing a contract with a mover.

Mayor Meche explained that the generators have been serviced and maintenance needs to be done. The nursing home generator and the generator on St. Landry Street are having problems with the injector pumps. Mayor suggested having the pumps re-built at a cost of \$15,012.00.

Debbie Kidder moved to have the injector pumps repaired at the cost of \$15,012.00 seconded by Cynthia Stelly, motion passed.

Mayor said that he and Kenny are looking at a few of the major pot holes that need fixing; Kenny is looking into getting someone to repair these holes.

Mayor stated that some of the roads are not patchable and he would like to put a couple of the streets in the budget for overlay.

Kevin Robin explained how the De Bayou Organization would help with projects within the town. Mardi Gras Ball will be held February 8, 2020.

Citizens' Concerns

Officer Jacob Russo and Officer Jair Stelly expressed their concerns about the Arnaudville Police Department. Mayor explained that the pay of the Arnaudville Police Department is the chief's responsibility and the board votes on what he brings up to the board.

Jamie Huval explained that they (the board) are not responsible for what the officers are getting paid; he said if Chief would go up to him he feels he can speak for the board on this matter. He feels they would all start hiring the police officers at \$11.00 an hour. Jamie said that the first job he had he was making \$9.00 an hour and he was not risking his life. He said he supports the police officers but he has a problem with the way the chief runs his department. Jamie said that he and the board would give the officers a raise in a heartbeat, but the chief does not come to the Council. Chief is supposed to have 5 officers, from what Jamie understands the Chief cannot make a schedule. The Police Department has the manpower to have 2 officers on duty, maybe not every night.

A brief discussion was held.

Adjourn

Suzanne Stelly moved to adjourn the January 2020 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Attest

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor