

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JULY 15, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present: Mayor, Todd Meche

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

Absent: Suzanne Stelly

Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux (Absent)

Town Attorney: Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer: Kenny Boagni

Police Chief: Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent: Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Meche

Prayer: Debbie Kidder

Pledge: All

Road Closure for the Fete Dieu De Teche, Saturday August 15, 2020—Willie Wyble

Willie Wyble asked the Mayor and Board for permission to close the roads behind the church for the Fete Dieu Teche, Jamie Huval moved to allow the closure of the roads second by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Approve June 29, 2020 5:15 P.M. Public Hearing Minutes (Utility Rates)—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the June 29, 2020 Public Hearing Minutes second by Kevin Robin, motion passed.

Approve June 29, 2020 5:30 P.M. Public Hearing Minutes (Adopting the operating budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021)—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the June 29, 2020 Public Hearing Minutes second by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Approve Regular Town Meeting Minutes June 29, 2020—Mayor

Kevin Robin moved to accept the June 29, 2020 Regular Town Meeting Minutes second by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Approve June 2020 Expenses—Mayor

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the June 2020 Expenses second by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

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

Water – 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 the appropriate filing cabinet in the utility department files.

Gas- Pipeline Safety performed a Distributed Integrity Management Plan (DIMP) inspection during the month of June. Todd Abshire, Lee Mallet and Flappy Hutchins were present during the inspection. There were no discrepancies noted during the 2-day inspection. The gas system is operating near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 40 psi at the Koch Station.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Patrol Officer Shamar Smith will be starting the St. Martin Parish POST Academy on Monday, August 10, 2020. It is estimated that his graduation from the Academy will occur sometime in November of this year, unless there are unforeseen delays.

It is chief's decision to place Patrol Officer Jacob Russo in the position of Acting Sergeant in the Arnaudville Police Department. In this position Patrol Officer Russo shall assume command of the Department in the Chief's Absence. Since this is an "acting" position no increase in compensation will be given; however, after a sufficient and satisfactory probationary period of four (4) to six (6) months the Council will be asked to make the "acting" status a permanent one with the accompanying hourly pay increase.

He (chief) is continuing the search to fill the vacant fifth position of Patrol Officer. Although there have been a few viable candidates they were not considered due to prior work history. He currently has on (1) candidate that shows promise; however, he is waiting on the results of his psychological evaluation and background check before making a decision on having him meet with representatives of the Council prior to recommending him for approval. He is hopeful that these steps can be accomplished prior to the end of this month and before Patrol Officer Smith starts attending the POST Academy.

Last night (July 14, 2020) chief was contacted by the Dispatcher in regards to the night shift Patrol Officer was involved in a physical altercation with an individual. Although he immediately got out of bed, got dressed and went to assist the Officer, it still took him approximately ten (10) minutes before he was able to make contact and offer assistance. Although the St. Landry Sheriff's Department was also contacted they did not arrive on scene until after his arrival. Chief is aware that operating funds are tight; however, he would like to reiterate that a single patrol officer at night, especially in the current environment that law enforcement finds itself, is a dangerous situation. Luckily the arrestee was not armed with a weapon and the Officer was able to control him until chief arrived.

On July 4, 2020, chief was contacted by Fr. Travis Abadie of St. Francis Catholic Church who inquired as to if it were possible for him to "pop" fireworks at his residence. Chief explained that the Town Ordinance prohibits fireworks within the Arnaudville town limits. Fr. Abadie stated that he understood and would make other arrangements. During the conversation they discussed options for the future, where fireworks were concerned. Fr. Abadie was open to the suggestion that a fireworks display could be held on Church property between Front Street and the Bayou Teche with viewing on the property behind his residence. Fr. Abadie informed chief that Mr. Huey (Joey) Wyble is trained in the setup, safety measures required and control of such a display. The only dates for such a display would be July 4th and New Year's Eve. Chief request the Council consider amending the Fireworks Ordinance to include those two (2) dates as exempt for a fireworks display being conducted by Mr. Wyble for the enjoyment of the citizens (weather permitting).

Statistics from the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of June: 32 citations, 49 FIC's, 21 MIC's 8 arrests, 136 calls for service.

Jamie Huval stated that he spoke to the Mayor about the fireworks, Jamie is working on getting a large fireworks display for the 4th of July, and he is looking at having this at the ball park. Jamie does plan to get with Joey Wyble to help with the display. He is looking at perhaps selling concession to benefit the recreation department.

Cynthia Stelly asked if chief had been having any issues with state mandated laws as for as COVID-19 is concerned. Chief said he has not had any issues. Chief said that if someone would walk into Russell's and did not have a mask and it was clearly marked that they wear one, if a person walked in without one and was asked to leave, at that point if the Police Department was called a citation could be served for trespassing.

Parks and Recreations—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Baseball has started in the park and all is going well.

Schedule a Public Hearing for August 18, 2020 at 5:50 P.M. for Millage the tax year 2020—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to schedule a Public Hearing for August 18, 2020 at 5:50 P.M. the tax year 2020 second by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

District Attorney Candidate—Chad Pitre (Absent)

Up-Date—Mayor Meche

The Drive Thru window is installed and now waiting for the cabinet and the outside awning.

Citizens' Concerns, ,,

Chief LeCompte said that a prayer walk would take place on July 18, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. the start of the walk would be at the Baptist Church. Jamie thanked Dianne Bergeron and Pearl Wyble for cleaning and mending the town banners.

Kevin Robin thanked Kelly Meche for all that she does in helping with the watering of the plants at City Hall and at the Gazebo.

Adjourn

Jamie Huval moved to adjourn the July 2020 meeting second by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor