

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 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, 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—Zelma Jackson

Called to Order—Mayor Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Accept August 17, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval motioned to accept the August 17, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Accept July and August Expenses—Mayor Meche

Suzanne Stelly motioned to accept July and August expenses seconded by Jamie Huval, motioned carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

All is going well, the bar screen had to be repaired and is back in operation.

Kenny Boagni said the water well was tied in 2 weeks ago, check valves had to be installed.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Chief attended the Louisiana Chief of Police Conference in Alexandria from July 19th through the 22nd.

There were a number of new programs and items that were displayed and he was suitably impressed, although he didn't purchase anything he did set up meetings with some vendors to visit with him in the future to discuss their products. The most pressing of which was the radio communication between patrolling officers and the base station at the Department.

Chief is in the process of coming into the office for a few hours to catch up on paperwork and other things that need looking after. As of right now, anywhere from 3 to 4 hours each time.

Patrol Officer Chris Ortego was taken out of the St. Martin POST Academy due to physical limitations. According to those he spoke with, his academic tests were well within the range needed to pass; however, his physical tests were not. Chief asked Patrol Officer Ortego if he had been aware of his limitations and he told the chief that he felt he could work through the problems he had. Apparently that was not the case. Patrol Officer Ortego assured chief that he is seeking medical assistance to pinpoint the problem and is working towards improving the problem.

Chief asked the Council to approve the hiring of two (2) individuals. One position is for Patrol Officer and One position for a Dispatcher. Both of these individuals have worked for the Department in those capacities in the past. For the Patrol Officer he recommended approval to rehire Mr. Curtis Chavis while for Dispatcher Ms. Ida Lalonde. Chief asked the Council to approve the following hourly pay based on these individuals prior service to \$11.64 per hour (Grade 2 Step 15) for Mr. Chavis and \$10.58 per hour (Grade 2 Step 7) for Ms. Lalonde. If the Council does not feel this is appropriate then the starting pay would be \$10.58 per hour (Grade 2 Step 7) for Mr. Chavis and \$9.02 (Grade 1 Step 33) for Ms. Lalonde. Statistics from the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of July were: 18 Citations, 27 MIC's, 5 arrests and 86 calls for service. Statistics from the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of August were: 4 Citations, 12 FIC's, 11 MIC's, 2 arrests, ad 48 calls for service.

Jamie commended chief for changing his view on re-hiring individuals.

Jamie Huval moved to accept the hiring of Ms. Ida Lalonde at \$10.58 per hour seconded by Debbie Kidder and Suzanne Stelly, motion passed. Jamie Huval moved to table the hiring of Mr. Curtis Chavis seconded by Cynthia Stelly and Kevin Robin, motion carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

The Utility Workers have been helping with the up-keep of the grass.

Adam Olivier came and re-dug the ditch in the park to help improve the drainage. Some of the water is being diverted to the bayou, hopefully this will help.

Up-Dates—Mayor Meche

The St. Landry Municipal Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2021 in Leonville.

The first half of the COVID Funding has been received in the amount of \$198,000 and next year the other half will be received.

Citizens' Concerns

Josh Ross explained R.S. 40:2405 which is Peace Officer training requirements by peace officer. The one-year period is required to complete a certified training program approved by the council and successfully pass a council-approved comprehensive examination is not interrupted if the peace officer leaves the employing agency to be employed as a peace officer in another agency in Louisiana. The time starts when the officer is initially put on the road to the time that the officer attends the academy. If the officer quits his position and goes to another police department the time keeps running.

Josh feels that the police department needs more quality than quantity. Kevin Robin inquired about the law; Josh stated that the law changed 2 years ago.

Cynthia Stelly spoke with individuals who said they call the police department and the dispatcher tells them there is no officer on duty and tells them to call the sheriff department. Cynthia feels the dispatcher should call for them due to the fact that they may be in danger.

Jamie Huval asked Mr. Curtis Chavis if he was given any uniforms and he said he was not given any uniforms. Jamie asked that the chief to appoint a liaison when he cannot attend a meeting. Josh stated that the Sheriff offered free service to train any new hires for the Town of Arnaudville; the Sheriff only needs a letter from the chief asking for assistance.

Jeremy DiCarlo stated that he called the police department and was told there was no one on duty. Jeremy stated that he has concerns about the drugs down his street. He said that this is unacceptable and dangerous.

Jeremy also inquired about speed bumps.

Debbie explained what went on with the elected and appointed position for the police chief.

Mayor explained that the Council cannot make an Ordinance to choose an elected or an appointed Chief of Police.

Suzanne Stelly stated that there are people speeding down her street, the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, there are no speed signs. Mayor stated that signs can be purchased and put on the streets where the signs are missing.

Kelly Meche inquired about gun shots; she wanted to know if a person can call the police station to report this. Chief LeCompte said yes this can be reported to the police department. Jamie Huval suggested to Chief LeCompte to find a second in command, post certified officer, in the event that Chief would need back-up.

Adjourn

Jamie Huval and Kevin Robin moved to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor