

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ALDERMAN  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE  
ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 291 GUIDROZ STREET, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512**

**Present**-Mayor, Todd Meche

**Council Members**-Debbie Kidder, Jamie Huval, Kevin Robin, Cynthia Stelly, Suzanne Stelly

**Town Clerk**-Dolores R. Quebedeaux

**Attorney**-Will Ryan (Absent)

**Engineer**-Kenny Boagni

**Police Chief**-Eddy LeCompte

**Utility Superintendent**-Todd Abshire

**Parks and Recreation Director**-Zelma Jackson

**Called to Order**-Mayor, Todd Meche

**Prayer**-Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge**-All

Mayor Meche asked the board members to amend the agenda to add two items 1. Accounting System 2. Proposed Ordinances, Jamie Huval moved to amend the agenda and add Accounting System and Proposed Ordinances seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Accept December 18, 2018 Regular Town Meeting Minutes-Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval moved to accept the December 18, 2018 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**January 8, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes-Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval moved to accept the January 8, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Accept December 2018 Expenses-Mayor Meche**

Suzanne Stelly moved to accept the December 2018 Expenses seconded by Debbie Kidder and Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

**Utility Report-Todd Abshire**

**Water**

Todd explained that the monthly Safe Drinking Water Act daily chlorine residual logs were verified by him and are on file in the utility office cabinet as required by law.

**Waste Water**

Todd explained that the SBR blower at the sewer plant had a faulty relay switch but has been changed. 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 gas line replacement projects are moving along as planned. The gas system is operating near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 40 psi at the Koch Station.

Todd also explained that he met with the Mayor and discussed potential up- grade for the system.

He stated that they will try and get funding for some of these projects. The Town of Arnaudville does not have regulatory problems so it is harder to get funding. Todd discussed the possibility of having new water well in the future. The water well has to be so many feet away from the existing well, so property may have to be swapped out with the neighboring land owner. Todd explained that the Town does chlorinate the water. A treatment plant would help to remove the iron out of the water.

The gas project is on hold due to weather conditions.

Kenny Boagni gave an up-date on the gas lines and stated that the contractors are waiting on fittings so they can finish the project. Money was put in the budget and bids will have to be accepted. A listing of leaks was found on the gas lines and with the money left over from the project this would complete what needs to be done, hopefully next month.

Kenny stated that on the sewer end there is a job that will take place for NuNu's (Do Not Need to Bid out NuNu's Project)

The project on East Street drainage will have to be publically bid out; Kenny said he will need authorization to bid out. Todd Meche entertained a motion to allow Kenny Boagni to accept bids on the East Street Drainage Project. Jamie Huval moved to allow Kenny to accept bids for the project seconded by Suzanne Stelly and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

#### **Police Report-Eddy LeCompte-Mayor**

During the 2018 calendar year the Police Department responded to 1,816 calls for services. Chief is extremely proud of the Law Enforcement Officers for the manner in which they performed their duties. They review each incident that could have evolved into a serious problem and dissect it to ascertain if they could or should have done something different. Also, during the calendar year, the Officers issued 576 traffic citations. The holidays were uneventful. No major injury or complaint was received by the Department.

Patrol Officer Josh Ross will begin the St. Martin POST Academy on Monday, January 28, 2019. He will be in training for the next approximately 14 weeks.

Chief petitions the Council to accept the resignation of Patrol Office George Higgins effective December 31, 2018 and accept the resignation of Dispatcher Ms. Courtni Mouton effective January 13, 2019. The police department is currently in the process of interviewing candidates to fill the vacant positions.

Chief intends to conduct a Neighborhood Watch meeting during the month of March 2019. He will let the Council know when a date has been set.

He is also preparing for the upcoming Etouffee Festival to be held on April 26, 27 and 28, 2019. He will review what was done last year to see if improvements can be made. Council or Community members, who have any ideas to enhance the Festival, please share with the Police Department.

He again petitioned the Council to make the necessary repairs and additions to the Town Hall facility in order to be in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations. Although the Police Department had met the requirements to qualify for a new Ford SUV Police Cruiser, saving the town approximately \$35,000, we could not get the Cruiser because of non-compliance of ADA requirements. The Department was told that there may be grants available to address the necessary construction work to be done. Please note that if the Town Council does not address the deficiencies, it will prevent the department from being eligible to receive future government grants...

Statistics from the department for the month of December were: 21 Citations, 55 FIC's, 22 MIC's, 3 arrests made, and 101 calls for service. Employee of the Month is Cynthia Guilbeau. Jamie Huval moved to accept the resignation of George Higgins effective December 31, 2018 seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

Jamie Huval moved to accept the resignation of Courtni Mouton effective January 13, 2019 seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

#### **Parks and Recreation-Zelma Jackson**

Zelma explained that the cement has been poured and the dug-outs are being enlarged. All is going well in the park. Baseball and Softball registration will be available at the ending of the month.

#### **Appointment for Town Clerk (Dolores Quebedeaux)-Mayor Meche**

Mayor Meche asked the Council to re-appoint Dolores Quebedeaux, as Town Clerk.

Motion was made by Jamie Huval to accept the re-appointment of Dolores Quebedeaux as town clerk seconded by Debbie Kidder, Suzanne Stelly and Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

#### **Utility Report-Mayor Meche**

Mayor asked the Council to re-appoint Todd Abshire as Utility Superintendent. Motion was made by Cynthia Stelly to re-appoint Todd Abshire as Utility Superintendent seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

**Parks and Recreation (Zelma Jackson)-Mayor**

Mayor asked the Council to re-appoint Zelma Jackson as Park and Recreation Director. Jamie Huval moved to accept the re-appointment of Zelma Jackson seconded by Debbie Kidder and Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Engineering Firm (Morgan Goudeaux and Associates)-Mayor Meche**

Mayor asked the Council to re-appoint Morgan Goudeaux and Associates as the engineering firm. Jamie Huval moved to re-appoint Morgan Goudeaux and Associates seconded by Kevin Robin and Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

**Town Attorney Firm-Mayor**

Mayor asked the Council to appoint Kay A, Theunissen with the firm of Mahtook & Lafleur. Motion was made by Jamie Huval seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Kolder, Slaven and Company (Lafayette) and Richard Champagne (Breux Bridge)-Mayor**

Mayor Meche asked the Council to appoint Kolder, Slaven and Company as the CPA Firm. Motion was made by Jamie Huval to accept the Firm of Kolder, Slaven and Company seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

Mayor Meche asked the Council to appoint Richard Champagne (Breux Bridge). Cynthia Stelly motioned to accept the Richard Champagne Firm seconded by Kevin Robin, unanimously carried.

**Magistrate-Mayor Meche**

Mayor Meche asked to Council to appoint Benjamin Trant. Jaime Huval moved to accept Benjamin Trant seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Colleen Cornay and Cindy Romero to take minutes when Dolores is not present-Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval moved to accept Colleen Cornay and Cindy Romero to take minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Resolution 1-2019 Assignment of Signatures on Arnaudville Town Accounts-Mayor Meche**

Mayor Meche asked for nomination for Mayor Pro Tem. Debbie Kidder nominated Suzanne Stelly for Mayor Pro Tem seconded by Jamie Huval. Cynthia Stelly nominated Kevin Robin for Mayor Pro Tem no second. Kevin stated that there is conflicting opinions on nominating the Mayor Pro Tem due to having new aldermen, but stated that this was irrelevant, but this should be addressed in the future. Going back to the nomination of Suzanne Stelly for Mayor Pro Tem seconded by Jamie Huval, Roll Call took place, Cynthia Stelly, Nay, Kevin Robin, Nay, Jamie Huval, Yay, Debbie Kidder, Yay, Suzanne Stelly, Yay, unanimously carried.

A motion was asked for a secondary bank signer when the Mayor is away from the office. Jamie Huval moved to nominate Debbie Kidder seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Up-Grade Accounting System-Mayor Meche**

Mayor Meche and Dolores Quebedeaux attended a meeting with the town accountant. The accounting system is old and is in need of upgrading. An estimate was handed out to the Council Member with a price of \$21, 940.00. The individual involved with this upgrade will look at all of the accounts to see if we would need to fluctuate more money, The Mayor will meet with him and give a more definite amount once all is discussed. Burton Kolder highly recommended that the town moves forward with the upgrade. This money is not in the budget but the Mayor asked the Council to approve this so the process can begin. The Mayor would like to get the conversion done by July 1, 2020. The Computers are approximately \$3000.00 for the front office; this is also in the Council members packets. Mayor

asked to amend the budget in the amount of \$30,000 in order to start the process. Jamie Huval moved to amend the budget in the amount of \$30,000 seconded by Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Proposed Ordinances-Jamie Huval**

Jamie Huval introduced Ordinance 1-2019 the Establishment of a Reserve Patrol Officer Unit this Ordinance was discussed at prior meeting.

Jamie Huval Introduced Ordinance 02-2019 this Ordinance is to add in figures that were left out of the pay scale, (Correct Pay Scale according to the Attorney General's Opinion).

Jamie moved to schedule a Public Hearing 30 minutes prior to the Regular Town Meeting in February 2019 seconded by Debbie Kidder, unanimously carried.

The Town Meeting date for the February 2019 meeting is the same date as the Mid-Winter Conference on February 19, 2019. Mayor asked for a motion to move the meeting to February 12, 2019, Debbie Kidder moved to have the meeting on February 12, 2019 seconded by Jamie Huval, Suzanne Stelly inquired about the bid opening on that date; Kenny Boagni stated that the bids cannot be accepted at that time. Debbie Kidder changed her motion to have the meeting on February 18, 2019 seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

**School Zone-Lisa Huval**

Liza stated that she works at Arnaudville Elementary on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons she does bus duty as well as all of the other School Aids. They have noticed that people are traveling at excessive rates of speed in the school zone. Parents are in cars lined up against the road waiting on their children. Union Street and West Railroad Avenue are the 2 locations where the speeding is taking place. Lisa attended the meeting on behalf of the school principal. In a letter read to the public it was suggested by Principal Mary Miller to help alleviate the problem of excessive speed and the safety concern. One, place several blinking caution school zone lights at the at the above mentioned streets and two, have an officer on duty at the pick-up area in the morning for approximately 30 minutes and in the afternoon for approximately 15 minutes. She feels that these 2 precautions would alleviate the speeding issue. She feels this would be beneficial to the Police Department to form a good relationship with the students and parents of Arnaudville Elementary.

Lisa said that she has been in contact with several people and has not gotten any results. Mr. Boudreaux (St. Landry Parish School Board) stated that some of this cost is never ending. He said that speed bumps or speed lumps are over used. Lighting is affective to a certain degree. Mr. Boudreaux stated that speed bumps seem to last longer and are inexpensive to maintain. Suzanne Stelly stated that Pine Street next to the school, there is a speeding problem. Todd Abshire explained what he did for the town of Port Barre.

**Assistant Superintendent (Edward Hutchins) –Mayor**

Mayor Meche introduced Edward Hutchins as the Assistant Superintendent for the Town of Arnaudville.

**Citizens 'Concerns**

Suzanne Stelly mentioned the repairs that the chief recommended for up-grading the City Hall in order to be in compliance, such things as the ramps and bathrooms. Mayor said that he will work on getting a proposal and see what the options are to be in compliance.

Kevin Robin asked if this is for wider doors and wheel chair accessibility, Chief told Kevin that is what they are planning to do.

**Adjourn**

Jamie Huval moved to adjourn the January 15, 2019 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Cynthia Stelly, Debbie Kidder and Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

**Attest:**

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Town Clerk, Dolores R. Quebedeaux

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Mayor, Todd Meche