

Official Proceedings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen taken at a Regular Town Meeting held on November 21, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Arnaudville Community Center, 271 Guidroz Street, Arnaudville, La. 70512.

Present—Mayor, Kathy M. Richard

Aldermen—Jamie Huval, Todd Meche, Louis Stelly, Jr., Suzanne Stelly

Absent—Annette Guidry

Town Clerk—Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney—Katie Ryan (Absent)

Engineer—Kenny Boagni

Building Code Inspection Services LLC—Rodney “Cooney” Richard

Police Chief—Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire

Parks and Recreation Director—Zelma Jackson

Called to Order—Mayor, Kathy M. Richard

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Mayor Richard asked the board to amend the agenda to add:

1. Fire Works

Jamie Huval moved to amend the Agenda seconded by Todd Meche, unanimously carried.

Accept October 17, 2017 Public Hearing Minutes—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the October 17, 2017 Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Accept October 2017 Special Meeting Minutes (Audit Report)—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the October 2017 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Accept October 17, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to accept the October 17, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Utility Report—Mayor

A Utility Department Update report was given to the Mayor and Board Members.

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.

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.

The gas system is operating near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 35psi at the Koch Station.

Todd Meche inquired about the analytical report from Guidry’s Fresh Cuts. Todd Abshire will be sending Guidry’s a letter requesting they turn in a report each month. Jamie Huval moved to have Todd Abshire send a letter to Guidry’s Fresh Cuts seconded by Todd Meche, unanimously carried.

Drainage Up-Date—Kenny Boagni

Kenny stated that he looked at the outlet on East Street, he was thinking of using the existing crossing. Kenny would also like to meet with someone from the State to discuss the drainage that perhaps would involve the State. There are estimates he is calculating, one is in the amount of \$165,000. Kenny

suggested perhaps putting money in the next year's Budget. Kenny stated that there is a conflict with the gas and sewer lines in that area. There are exposed utilities in that area and perhaps this would have to be re-located.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, a Neighborhood Watch meeting was held at the Arnaudville Community Center. Approximately thirty people were in attendance. Discussions included CPR training and reporting of suspicious activities in and around the Arnaudville town limits. The main topic of discussion was safety during the upcoming holidays and of people being aware of their surroundings while out shopping. Tuesday, October 31, 2017, the streets of Quebedeaux, Swamp and Washington were designated as "One Way" for approximately two and one half hours during the "Trick or Treat" time period of Halloween. The feedback received was favorable and they did not experience any traffic congestion. The department will revisit this approach to reducing congestion and increasing child safety next year. Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Dispatcher Trent Mouton graduated from the St. Martin Police Academy. Mr. Mouton received 2 separate awards relating to his time at the Academy. Mr. Mouton received the "Top Gun" award for the highest score on the firearm qualification. Mr. Mouton's second award was for "Top Academics" based on written tests that were given throughout their training. It is worthy to note that Mr. Mouton was also chosen as President of his Academy Class. Chief congratulated Mr. Mouton for these achievements.

Chief petitioned the Town Council to approve the promotion of Dispatcher Trent Mouton to the position of Patrol Officer at the pay rate of Grade 2 Step 13 (\$11.37 per hour).

During the past few weeks the police department has been reviewing applications for the position of Dispatcher to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Mouton upon his completion of the St. Martin Police Academy. They received roughly twenty applications of which approximately ten candidates showed up for an initial interview. Of those that showed up initially, five were chosen to come back for a follow-up interview with Dispatchers Jolivette and Richard on Friday, November 17, 2017. Of the five asked to return only four showed up. After discussing qualification, work habits, sociability, and references it was decided, based on the discussion, the best candidate is Ms. Kirsten McBay. Chief petitioned the Town Council to approve the hiring of Ms. Kirsten McBay to the position of Dispatcher, on the provision that she pass the physical and drug screen, at the pay rate of \$8.56 per hour. He also petitioned the Town Council to approve the acceptance of the resignation from Sergeant S. Jason Howell, effective November 30, 2017. Chief wished Mr. Howell the Best of Luck in his new endeavor.

With the leaving of Sergeant Howell his office will be shorthanded and due to this he has placed an ad for a Patrol Officer on the website. The intent is to review all applications and begin interviewing on or about the week of December 11, 2017. The intent is to have a recommendation for the hiring of a full time Patrol Officer at the next Town Council meeting to be held on December 19, 2017. In order to assist the Department, Reserve Officer Barry Ard has consented to return to full time duty for two weeks in December 2017 and two to six months starting in January 2018. Reserve Officer Ard will take the patrol position vacated by Sergeant Howell.

He petitioned the Town Council to approve the move of Officer Barry Ard from a Reserve Officer status to that of a full time Patrol Officer at the same pay rate he was earning when he left. This will only be a temporary assignment and once the Department is back in full strength Officer Ard will return to his Reserve Officer status.

Statistics from the Department for the month of October 2018 were 52 citations, 15 FIC's, 57 MIC's, 9 arrests and 151 calls for service.

Employee of the Month is Patrol Officer Anna White.

Todd Meche motioned to approve Dispatcher Trent Mouton to the position of Patrol Officer at a pay rate of \$11.37 per hour, approve the hiring of Ms. Kirsten McBay to the position of Dispatcher on the provision she pass the physical and drug screen, at a pay rate of \$8.56 per hour, approve the moving of

Reserve Officer Barry Ard to a full time Patrol Officer status effective December 6, 2017 until further notice (not to exceed six months) unless requested in the future, rate \$11.90 per hour, accept the resignation of Sergeant S. Jason Howell effective November 30, 2017 seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Mayor stated that Zelma is preparing for Basketball.

Introduce Ordinance 06-2017-An Ordinance of the Town of Arnaudville amends the Arnaudville Code of Ordinances to implement each of the most currently adopted codes, along with any amendments thereto; also included is the adoption of each code's chapter 1—Mayor

Suzanne Stelly introduced Ordinance 06-2017.

Schedule a Public Hearing December 19, 2017 at 5:45 P.M. for Ordinance 6-2017--Mayor

Suzanne Stelly motioned to schedule a Public Hearing for December 19, 2017 at 5:45 P.M., seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Up-Date on Blighted Property Procedures—Rodney “Cooney” Richard

Mr. Richard stated that he started with the letters; he feels the Ordinances should be in place before sending out certified letters. Mr. Richard is still looking at different blighted properties. Once the Ordinances are put in place then action will be taken.

Up-Date on Blighted Property—Jamie Huval

Jamie asked if it were possible to move forward with sending out letters because it is in an existing Ordinance. Mr. Cooney explained that when he is doing an Inspection he likes to quote the property maintenance Code Book.

There are some penalties in the existing Ordinance for the blighted property.

Up-Date on Ordinance Enforcement—Todd Meche

This topic was addressed on the above topic. (Blighted Property)

Up- Date on Motion from September on three properties to enforce existing Ordinances—Todd Meche

This topic was addressed on the above topic. (Blighted Property)

Up-Date on Piggy Back Meters—Todd Meche

Mayor stated that the utility workers are still investigating possible piggy back customers.

A list was handed out of the addresses that are piggy backed. Todd Meche said the meters should be for one structure. Mayor inquired about the sewer, Mr. Cooney said sewer is different from water.

Every resident should have their own meter according to the Ordinance. Kenny said that people that are piggy backed should be approached and meters should be put down at no expense to the customer.

Suzanne Stelly tabled the Piggy Back Meters topic.

Up-Date Drainage Issues—Todd Meche

Topic was addressed on the above topics.

Town Business Office Operations—Todd Meche

Todd handed out information to the Mayor and the Board. The information was about providing Electronic Payment Service to the customers. Individuals would have access to pay by credit card or debit card, phone app, etc. N Court is a free service to the municipality; there is a service charge that is tagged on to the customer. The customers have to pay with cash, check or money order due to not having online service. Todd explained that most people do not use checks anymore. Todd feels that this is a service that should be provided to the customer. Todd Meche motioned to contract with N Court as soon as possible, seconded by Jamie Huval. Mayor stated that she visited Grand Coteau and looked at their program. She also said she is conversing with LaMats. LaMats will be doing the same thing and they are in conjunction with the town web site. LaMats is also a free service. Suzanne Stelly questioned the fee schedule with N Court she said that perhaps the other companies may have a lower

rate. Suzanne said that she does not want to move too fast on this program. She feels it's a good plan but would like more input.

Roll Call: Todd Meche, Yea, Jamie Huval, Yea, Louis Stelly, Jr., No, Suzanne Stelly, No

Mayor Richard broke the tie with a No due to wanting to continue working with other companies also.

Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to allow the workers to have off with pay on the day after Christmas and New Year. There was no second to Jamie's motion, Suzanne Stelly stated that she has to go to work the day after Christmas, so should the town workers.

Fireworks—Mayor

Mayor Richard asked the board if they wanted to lift the Ordinance to allow fireworks.

Jamie Huval said that he did not feel that the Ordinance should be lifted; he said they do not know if it will be wet or dry for the Holidays. No fireworks will be allowed during the Holiday Season within the Corporate Limits of the Town of Arnaudville.

Schedule a Special Meeting for November 28, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. Crawfish Ponds (Executive Session)- Mayor

Todd Meche motioned to schedule a Special Meeting on November 28, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Announcements--Mayor

Mayor complimented the Veterans who served and are serving our country.

Cookies with Santa will be held on December 16, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Arnaudville Community Center.

Citizens' Concerns—Mayor

Ginger LeCompte agreed about having a way to pay bills on line making sure that the program is consistent with the town web site.

George Marks inquired about the piggy backed meters, he asked about the money loss due to this.

Mayor said that the flat rate is not being paid due to having only one meter for more than one resident.

George also inquired about the large pieces of property and the development of the properties. Mr.

Cooney explained that the town does have town right-of-ways.

Adjourn—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to adjourn the November 21, 2017 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Attest

Town Clerk, Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Mayor, Kathy M. Richard