

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUVILLE MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUVILLE, LA

PRESENT—Kathy M. Richard, Mayor

ALDERMEN—Annette Bramlett, Jamie Huval, Todd Meche, Louis Stelly, Jr., Suzanne Stelly

TOWN CLERK—Dolores R. Quebedeaux

TOWN ATTORNEY—Katie Ryan (Absent)

TOWN ENGINEER—Kenny Boagni (Absent)

POLICE CHIEF—Eddy LeCompte

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT—Todd Abshire

PARKS AND RECREATION—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order—Mayor Richard

Pledge—Annette Guidry

Accept December 20, 2016 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

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

Accept December 2016 Expenses—Mayor

Louis Stelly, Jr., moved to accept the December 2016 Expenses seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire

Todd explained that the water system is currently being flushed. Ten additional sample taps were installed this month as directed by LDH for Bac-T sampling. The monthly Bacteriological samples were collected and submitted to the Baton Rouge LDH lab for analysis and all four passed. LDH will begin drawing the town's required Bac-T this month and the town is no longer responsible to draw these monthly samples. LDH will also draw the town's required Disinfection By-Product sampling when due. These samples are being taken by LDH Sanitarians. 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 wastewater treatment facility has had no major issues over the last month. 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 odorant level at the Cypress station was inadvertently left at a higher than normal level by Eunice Meter Company when they were repairing a leak at the station. This caused customers to smell more odorant than normal inside of their homes, at stoves and heaters, thus generating calls to the town hall regarding gas leaks. Once receiving these calls, the odorant level was lowered to the correct level and the cypress station is functioning properly.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

During the 2016 calendar year the Police Department responded to 2,547 calls for service. Although most of the calls were for non-hazardous responses, a few had possibility of becoming serious. Chief LeCompte is extremely proud of the Law Enforcement Officers for the manner in which they perform their duties. The department reviews 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 904 traffic citations. Chief recently had meetings with the Officers to review the enforcement of traffic laws. As he pointed out, the Officers do not conduct

traffic stops for no reason. If someone fails to stop at a stop sign or is speeding the Officer conducting the traffic stop may be saving that person from one day getting in an accident, injuring themselves or others. The holidays were uneventful. No major injury or complaint was received by the department. Statics for the Department for the month of December were: 51 Citations issued, 37 FIC's, 73 MIC's, 8 arrests and 173 calls of service.

Employee of the month is Amber Arnaud.

Mini Mart—Mary Cagnina Breaux (Cathy)

Mayor Richard asked Cathy if there was a lawyer involved with litigation towards the town, Cathy explained that there was not a lawyer involving the town, but there was one for their business. Cathy stated that there is no lawyer involved against the Arnaudville Police Department. Cathy stated that she is here on behalf of her family and thanked the Mayor and the Board for allowing her to speak on behalf of her family she felt it was necessary to put a face with the name. Cathy stated that she is here to address you, the people of the Town of Arnaudville. She comes here representing the entire Cagnina family and the legacy of her dad, Joseph Cagnina. Her father was Papa Joe, the sole owner of Papa Joe's Minimart and Deli. To her he was "Daddy"! For those of you who were lucky enough to have known him, you would agree that he was the most, kindest, gentlest, fairest, and just man you would ever meet. He taught her many things during her 43 years with him. One of the most important things, he taught her was how to be a strong person and today she is able to stand up for what is right. She explained that her dad was a hardworking man. He was a college graduate. He worked and retired from two insurance adjusting firms. After his retirement, he was diagnosed with Leukemia. He chose quality over quantity and decided cancer treatment was not for him. His illness may have slowed him down, but it never stopped him. Her dad lived until the day he died on December 27, 2013. About herself, she is the mother of 3 children and a grandmother of 2. She is a wife married to her husband for 16 years. She is a nurse, and has held her license for the last 26 years and has been employed at the same hospital for the last 26 years. Contrary to the "word on the street", she is NOT a drug user. She has two brothers and one sister. All of whom are married, have grown children, are employed, homeowners and law abiding citizens where they reside. Over the past 3 years and more so, recently there has been quite a disturbance surrounding the Mini Mart. A lot of negative, defaming, and untrue statements have been made regarding ownership and the actual current state of the situation. To set the record, Joseph Cagnina was the owner and financial backing of Papa Joe's Mini Mart and Deli and Joseph Cagnina Enterprises and he had employees that worked for him. Upon his untimely death, his last will and testament was divulged that his business interest with Papa Joes Mini Mart and Deli, etc., 1/5th ownership of the building and property to include the debts and taxes associated with the business, would be left to one of his employees. The remaining 4/5th interest of the building, property, and Joseph Cagnina Enterprises would be divided equally among his 4 children. The continuous rumors, slander and defamation of character regarding her family must stop. Her dad would never stand for this. The person responsible for this knows who they are. Their desire as a family is to sell this vacant property that her dad left. There is no longer a business, the licenses are expired. The debts that were associated to the business as noted in the Will have NOT been paid. Utility accounts in Joseph Cagnina's name were being used after his death and billed and were not being paid by the responsible party therefor the Estate Administrator had to shut the business off. Philip Cagnina, Cathy's brother, is the estate administrator has tried very diligently and legally to appease those involved but so far, to no avail. She and her siblings own 4/5th of the building and property. They have never been given a key to the building therefor they had to break into their property. They have asked for a key but have been denied. She and her family are not breaking any laws. She stated that they have been accused of trespassing and breaking and entering. She said they are not criminals. It is not trespassing when it is your own property. She said "Mr. Chief of Police, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding throughout these last few months. I know you have been publicly bashed in this here

room and you certainly did not deserve that when you were only following the law. Your officers also have been very patient and understanding as well. I commend you all for your efforts

To the people of Arnaudville, the Chief of Police, the Mayor and Town attorney, on behalf of the Cagnina Family please accept our sincere apology. My daddy never intended for this kind of trouble to be caused in your town and would never have stood behind this kind of chaos and commotion that has come from all of this and neither will, his children. The other party involved, having been through 3 prior attorneys, has now retained a 4th attorney, we are hoping for and seeking a quick resolution for this drama as we have, and have had, a buyer in the waiting since May 2016. Hopefully you will get your peaceful town back soon. Thank you for your time and attention tonight, and again, I apologize! May Papa Joe soon Rest in Peace!"

LaMats (Taxes)—Cliff Palmer

Cliff thanked the Mayor, Board Members, Clerk and Chief of Police for allowing him to speak. Cliff explained the new businesses that LaMats has to offer. The Louisiana Municipal Association owns 2 subsidiaries, Risk Management and LaMats. Cliff stated that they are the service arm of the LMA to help municipalities. LaMats offers several services such as Occupational License collection, Insurance license collection, etc. LaMats is in its eight year in collecting Insurance Collection Licenses there are 195 parishes as of this year that are participating. There has been no one that has dropped out of the service. They do not pick and choose businesses; businesses should pay their appropriate amount, and not try to pay what they think they should pay. There is a schedule that has to be followed for occupational licenses, report the gross sales you have to assume businesses will report this correctly, but if they don't and LaMats suspects that this is not happening, they assume responsibility for the town. A new service that is offered through LaMats is debt recovery for old utility bills. These bills can be very hard to collect. Once the people are located they will do the best to give every opportunity to allow the customer to do what is right. An Ordinance has to be adopted passing the 25% cost to the customer not the town. Cliff provided that Mayor and the Board members with an agreement and a sample Ordinance. Cliff briefed on public records, tax records and business licenses are public records, however you do have to be careful that you don't just copy and put this in the paper and hand this out just to anyone. Personal identifiers have to be handled very carefully. The city attorney is the person who should look at each one before they are released. Mayor stated they are concerned about the delinquent taxes; people have been contacted promising to pay and have not come in. Mayor said that she is also interested in collecting the delinquent utility bills. Cliff advised not to write anything off unless discussed with the Legislative Auditors Office.

Floating Dock—Huey Wyble (Chamber of Commerce)

Huey Wyble (CEO) of the Chamber of Commerce spoke on behalf of the Chamber. Mr. Wyble named several businesses that are interested in the Floating Dock, these businesses being: La Poste, Creations by Toni, Tom's Fiddle Shop, Myran's Maison De Manger, Bayou Teche Guns, Wyble Snowball 's, Russell's Food Center, NuNu Collectives, Guidry's Fresh Cuts, Bayou Teche Brewery, Knott's Grocery, Washington State Bank, Silver Slipper, Apple PaTanda's, CA Guidry Produce, Little Big Cup. Mr. Wyble wanted the council to know that all of these businesses are in favor of the floating dock, leasing the bayou front property along Front Street, from St. Regis Church for the floating dock project. This would bring revenues to the town and allow access to the Bayou Teche. At the October town meeting the council members expressed concerns about the lease agreement that was given to them, some things in the agreement needed to be changed, liability issues, concerns about the old boat landing and that a meeting with the town attorney was needed. Huey stated that he is here to see what progress has been made. He asked if the lease agreement has been modified. Mayor explained that she could perhaps have Mr. Jerry Cronin explain the liabilities. In the contract it was stated that the town would have to resume responsibility on certain things for the floating dock. Mayor stated that she was in belief that the Teche Project was going to take care of the repairs and now they are asking the Town to pay for

repairs. Jamie stated that when these people originally came to the board, the board was told that the Teche Project was going to assume the liability, everything has changed. Todd Meche stated that on February 10, 2016 the council voted to send a letter of the position of the town for this project stating that it was applied for, but the documents were incorrect. The town was not accepting liability for the floating dock and does not have the right to do so because it is church property. If the church and the Teche Project want to build a floating dock, the town is not stopping them. There were meetings with the priest, it was said that this project would have to be reviewed with the Bishop. The town has yet to have gotten any kind of information from the priest or the bishop. Todd feels that the town should not assume any liability due to the fact that this is not town property. Some of the parishioners are for the project but some are not. The church needs to decide what is going to happen because this is not town property.

Suzanne Stelly said that a couple of years ago paper work was brought to the town but contradicted what was to take place.

The Teche Project was under the assumption that the town was going to assume the liability.

Mr. Bill Fontenot applied for a grant for a trail head and that the town would be responsible, the town is finding out that some of these people are applying for grants and the town is being told this after the fact.

Jamie stating at the beginning of the project it was said that the Teche Project would assume the responsibilities and now this has changed. Annette Bramlett said there was a meeting with the priest along with Mr. Jerry Cronin with Risk Management, unless the Priest gets a letter from the Bishop to start any of this, nothing can be done. Suzanne Stelly suggested having a Liaison to speak to the Priest and the Bishop.

Executive Session—Mayor

Todd asked to allow the St. Landry Parish up-date (Mr. Alvin Stelly) speak first than go into Executive Session.

St. Landry Parish Up-Date—Alvin Stelly

Mr. Stelly thanked the Mayor and the Council for allowing him to speak at the meeting.

He explained that the parish would be voting on an Ordinance on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 concerning the hospital property in Arnaudville. Mr. Stelly asked the Mayor and Board if they had received their paper work on this Ordinance. The board members stated that they had just received the paper work on this day. Mr. Stelly said several business owners asked Mr. Bill Fontenot for a business plan for this property, Mr. Fontenot stated that he could not find the paper work. Guy Cormier with St. Martin Parish could not find his paperwork as well. Mr. Stelly stated that he is not against the French Emersion. He said that the hospital was built for a medical facility, not for French Emersion. He stated that the building is in town and what happens if the Parish takes this property. The Tax Payers will have to pay for this. If something happens that they cannot pay for the expenses, this will be taken over by the Parish and all of the tax payers will have to pay. If the Ordinance goes thru, the Parish Government will own the building. Todd stated that he briefly read over the paper work, the rough estimate to repair the building is 1.7 to 2.7 million dollars and wonders who will pay for these repairs. Todd stated that the St. Landry Parish is in a financial bind. Mr. Stelly said that the parish is already in a million dollar financial bind. The Council members should have received a business plan months ago to go over all of the details. Jaime stated that he toured the building and there is mold in the building and probably will take one million dollars to fix the building. Mr. Stelly also said that it is raining in the building.

Mr. Stelly feels like the Ordinance should be backed up to give more time to study all of this. Most of the people do not know what is going on. St. Martin Parish will give their portion to St. Landry and St. Landry will take the hospital. The money in the bank is to stay in a trust fund for a medical facility. The money is not supposed to be used to repair the building. The building and the land was appraised at \$300,000, the building sits on 4 acres of land. Chester Cedars stated at a meeting that the board could

not be abolished and take the money for the building. Mr. Stelly feels that they needed an Attorney General Opinion. Todd feels that the building should have been inspected due to mold and asbestos, etc.

Todd Meche moved to open the meeting to the public seconded by Jamie Huval and Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Mr. Harold Taylor with the Parish Presidents Office stated that if the Ordinance is passed as introduced the building will be taken over by the Parish if the Ordinance passes and get 1.3 million that is in escrow. St. Martin dissolves liability for the building because there share was given to St. Landry Parish. No firm has come in to see if there if environmental problems with the building. The building should be inspected before all of this takes place. Once the parish takes the building it would be transferred to the French Emersion. Jamie stated that there is no money for grants from the state to repair the building. Mr. Wayne Ardoin also with the Parish Presidents Office asked the council if they had the revised business plan. Mr. Ardoin stated that he also is not against the French Emersion, but he is concerned about the building. What is going to happen and how much money will be available in this matter. The town is not interested in the building due to the cost of the repairs. Mr. Ardoin stated that the Parish is in the red, five employees were let go from the office. He feels that legal authority should take place before the Ordinance is voted on. Huey Wyble stated that the building has been abandoned for several years, he said the longer it is abandoned the more it will cost to fix the building. There is nothing in the Ordinance that states the building will be used for French Emersion. The Chamber of Commerce supports the Ordinance.

George Marks stated that there were several road blocks in this project. Mr. Taylor stated that the old hospital in Eunice is just there because there are environmental problem with no funds to repair it. The people who paid taxes on the hospital are the ones who own the building. Mayor said that this project is just going round and round with nothing getting done. Jamie Huval and Annette Bramlett moved to close the meeting to the public seconded by Todd Meche and Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Executive Session—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to go into Executive Session seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Jamie Huval and Annette Bramlett moved to go into the Regular Meeting seconded by Todd Meche and Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Todd Meche moved to contact Mr. Bruce Gaudet in regards to the property with the Crawfish Ponds with possible litigation and to consult with the Mayor and the Board seconded by Jamie Huval and Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Adjourn

Todd Meche moved to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Kathy M. Richard, Mayor