

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025, AT 6:00 PM AT THE ARNAUVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUVILLE. LA 70512.

PRESENT – MAYOR, TODD MECHE

ALDERMEN – Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Ginger LeCompte, John Taylor

ABSENT – Suzanne Stelly

TOWN CLERK – Dolores Quebedeaux

TOWN ATTORNEY – Kay Theunissen

TOWN ENGINEER – Kenny Boagni

POLICE CHIEF – Josh Ross

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT – Todd Abshire (Absent)

PARKS AND RECREATION – Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order – Mayor Meche

Prayer – John Taylor

Pledge – All

Citizens' Concerns (2 minutes) Mayor Meche

Dakota Arnaud addressed the AG Opinion on roads the Town decided to sell. He claims there was no response to a letter he and an heir to the “road in question” sent in. He claims the board does not answer his questions. Aldermen voted to sell the road before November 2024. DA forced the Town to have another meeting to follow the open meeting law. Dakota wants Ginger Lecompte to ask the Attorney General for an opinion on the matter. He went on to explain what the AG does and that it doesn't cost the Town anything. Asked the Council why would they be against an AG opinion? Jamie Huval said he has no objection to an AG opinion.

Adopt Jan 30, 2025, Public Hearing Minutes—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder moved to accept Jan. 30, 2025; Public Hearing Minutes seconded by John Taylor.

Mayor Meche asked if there was any discussion, Ginger Lecompte made a motion to amend the previous Minutes for Jan 30, 2025, meeting, about Debbie Kidder addressing Ginger Lecompte about a social media post made by Council Woman Ginger Lecompte regarding the LMA conference, Ms. LeCompte wanted to clarify the purpose of the post. Ginger LeCompte motioned to accept the amended minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, Roll Call: Jamie Huval, yea, Debbie Kidder, yea, John Taylor, no, motion carried. Board approved the previous minutes “as amended”

Adopt January 30, 2025, Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

John Taylor moved to approve of January 30, 2025, regular town meeting minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Adopt Budget to Actual /Budget Comparison for January 2025—Mayor Meche

Jamie Huval moved to adopt the Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for January 2025 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor Meche read the utility report prepared by utility superintendent Todd Abshire.

For the month of February 2025:

WATER—The entire water system is being flushed during the month of February. During the recent record setting cold temperatures and snow, the utility department worked tirelessly to protect the town's water, wastewater, and natural gas system from damage and/or incidents. The Town's infrastructure suffered no loss of pressure and provided continuous water and natural gas to our customers. The financial, management, and technical information for the town's 2025 letter grade, as required by Act 98, has been submitted to LDH. Our water system letter grade will be issued in April. The monthly Safe Drinking Water Act daily chlorine residual logs were verified by Todd Abshire and are on file in the utility office as required by law.

WASTEWATER—The monthly flow records were faxed to HoPak Laboratories to verify flow in accordance with our discharge permit, as well as all analytical results being examined, reported, and filed in the utility department files.

Gas—The gas system is operating at 40psi of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and Koch Station.

Jamie Huval moved to accept the Utility Report seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Police Report—Chief Josh Ross

As of February 25, 2025, the Arnaudville Police Department responded to over 40 calls to service within the town limits this month, including over 10 medical calls.

The Arnaudville Police Department has had over 155 encounters with members of the public since the beginning of the month. The average response time has been less than 9 minutes, and the average time spent on a call is around 14 minutes.

This Month the Arnaudville Police Department has processed 4 felony arrests, 1 misdemeanor arrests, and 13 traffic citations.

The current state of the department is as follows:

Investigations: N/A

Staffing: The Arnaudville Police Department will be losing two dispatchers in the coming weeks and will be recommending two candidates to fill the vacancies tonight.

Training Update: All have completed training for ethics, sexual harassment and cyber security, firearms etc.

Vehicle Update: N/A

Community Concerns: The 38th Annual Etouffee Festival is rapidly approaching. The Arnaudville Police Department does have a plan in place to ensure 24/7 protection of the town, as well as protection at the event. Golf Cart Passes for the festival will be issued beginning April 1, 2025

Requests:

1. I know its early, however, I would also like to ask the council to approve the closures of Pine Street, the section that runs from Main to Front, approval to turn Front Street into one-way, funneling from Fuselier to Guidroz, and the 200-300 block of Main Street (From the Little Flower to before Butches), where the festival will take place April 25-April 27, 2025, beginning one (1) hour prior to the start of the festival, and ending on (1) hour after the festival closes.
2. I would ask the council to consider the hiring of Tahaka Sonnier and Maddox Collette to the position of dispatcher at a payrate of \$13.50 per hour.

Jamie Huval made a motion to allow road closures for the Etouffee Festival seconded by Debbie Kidder, a motion carried.

Jamie Huval motioned to hire Tahaka Sonnier at \$13.50 per hour for the position of dispatcher seconded by John Taylor and Ginger LeCompte motion carried.

Jamie Huval motioned to hire Maddox Collette at \$13.50 per hour for the position of a dispatcher seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Ms. Zelma is getting ready for softball. All is going well.

New Business

Award Presentation—Representative Chad Boyer

Representative Chad Boyer awarded Sable Jolivette for 31 years of service for the Town of Arnaudville and Dolores Quebedeaux for 23 years of service for the Town of Arnaudville.

Proclamation—Mayor Meche

Mayor Meche read an Employee Recognition Proclamation honoring Ms. Sable Jolivette for her 31 years of service for the Town of Arnaudville.

AG Opinion Resolution 1-2025—Ginger LeCompte

Ginger stated that road abandonment is an issue that all municipalities face from time to time. In this case it has been like a hot potato for several years. Several years ago, a former Mayor wanted to abandon the eligible roads that are no longer used or needed. Give the land back to the landowners or heirs based on the recommendation of the then town attorney. The Council at the time declined to do so. She also shared a re-cap of what had happened 6 months ago. She also stated that she inquired about the proper way to seek

an Attorney General's opinion. A Resolution must be adopted by the council to obtain an AG opinion. She provided the mayor with a copy of her letter to the AG, copy of their response and a request to bring this to the full council for the required Resolution, but was discouraged he wanted to give the local attorney time to report. This month she asked to be put back on the agenda for February, was discouraged.

RESOLUTION 1-2025 A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SEEKING OF AN OPINION FROM THE LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE APPROPRIATE DISSOLUTION AND ABANDONMENT OF ROADS.

Ms. LeCompte read Resolution 1-2025 in its entirety.

Ginger LeCompte motioned to accept Resolution 1-2025 seconded by Jamie Huval.

The mayor stated that he spoke to Ms. Ginger about when she brought this up. He said he is not against getting an Attorney General's opinion as far as he is concerned it is not ready to be done, when the road came up an Ordinance was passed to sell the road, the land owner disputed it, the records were looked at the land there is an abstract that the town relied on , the town was correct appellate court but that section was not in that particular abstract.

The Council voted for the mayor to go ahead and find out the details and the documentation. Once the Mayor gets the facts from Mr. Bruce Gaudin, he will be happy to get an AG opinion. Roll call: Resolution 1-2025, Jamie Huval, yes, Ginger LeCompte, yes, Debbie Kidder, no, John Taylor, no, tie vote and Mayor, no, until he gets facts. Debbie Kidder stated that at this point no one knows who really owns this land and once they get answers then they can move forward, she hopes that the land is for the landowner. Jamie Huval said that it is unfortunate that Mr. Ryan Petticrew is caught up in this, Jamie feels that it is an easy solution. If he owns the property and the town has some kind of legal ties to the property, he bought the town can still abandon the road.

Cable Wire—Debbie Kidder

Debbie Kidder explained that all the orange cable 'sticking out of the ground belongs to Allen's Cable. It will take some time to resolve the matter. Allen's Cable will be an underground cable, there will be nothing exposed. If someone is an existing customer there will be no cost for the customer.

Up-Dates—Mayor Meche

Mayor Meche explained that the town has been working with Entergy for the last couple of months due to street lighting. Mayor Meche stated that he invited Mr. Dirk Soileau who is the town's Entergy representative. Mr. Soileau said that streetlights outages were reported to Entergy, and they are doing an investigation into the matter. He is working on getting this matter resolved.

The culvert going to the water well needs to be replaced, the town is sharing the expenses with the landowner. The culvert that was supposed to be used was defective and another

had to be re-ordered, the culverts are made in Mexico. The price has gone up approximately \$2000.00 more.

Jamie Huval inquired about the house on N. Mills St., owned by the parish. The mayor stated that the grass was cut, and it is scheduled to be demolished by the parish.

Jamie Huval motioned to open the meeting to the public seconded by Ginger LeCompte, motion carried.

A discussion was held on all the topics that were on the agenda. Different views were had.

Adjournment

John Taylor moved to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by Debbie Kider, and the motion carried.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor