

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUVILLE, 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 (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Meche

Prayer: Suzanne Stelly

Pledge: All

Old Business

Approve April 20, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to approve the April 20, 2021 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Cynthia Stelly and Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Approve April 20, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes (Ordinance 1-21 Entertainment Establishments 5:30 P.M.)—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the April 20, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Cynthia Stelly and Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

Approve April 20, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes (Special Election Tax Renewal 5:45 P.M.)—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Kevin Robin, motion carried.

Approve Special Meeting Minutes (Hire Police Officer-May 4, 2021)—Mayor

Kevin Robin moved to accept the Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder and Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Approve April 20, 2021 Expenses—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the April Expenses seconded by Kevin Robin and Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

The new well is dug; the electrician started connecting the controls. Well #1 is back on line, flushing of the water lines will resume.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

The employee evaluations are currently being made and will be discussed with all before the end of the month. An email will be sent to the Mayor and Alderpersons when the evaluations have been completed. The 2021-2022 Budget is in the process of being completed. Chief will be giving his budget numbers to the Mayor by the end of this week. In the meantime, should any Alderperson wish to discuss what is included in the Police Department Budget they are welcome to meet with the chief at their convenience.

Patrol Officer Bryan Vidrine abruptly resigned his position effective today, Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Chief wished Mr. Vidrine the best in his new endeavor.

Jamie Huval asked the Chief if there was a reason Mr. Vidrine resigned, Chief stated that Mr. Vidrine is going to work for the state. Jamie asked if this had anything to do with making Mr. Vidrine work every night, because the chief will not put women working at night. Chief said it has nothing to do with that.

Cynthia Stelly asked if Chief required anything in writing when someone leaves the department, Chief said they should but most of them do not. Chief stated that he has two women and only one is certified. Chief said he prefers not to have a woman working at night. Cynthia Stelly asked what would happen if the chief gets a squad of just women. Chief said a woman is going to do what they have to do and that there is no difference between a man and a woman when it comes to doing their job. Jamie stated that Mr. Vidrine point blank said that chief would not put a woman working nights; Jamie also stated to Chief that in a previous meeting he said that he did not want to hire women. Jamie said some women do a better job than men do. Chief said he does not like the idea of women working at night, but he is old school. Jamie stated that women are of equal rights. Jamie stated to the chief that someone told the board that the council is not working with him, Jamie said that he and the chief had good discussions about what's going on with the Police Department, Jamie told the chief that he would butt out of the police department but he has a problem with chief saying that the council tables everything that he asks for, will not hire anyone. Jamie asked if there was a problem, Chief said not that he knows of. Jamie asked again if chief had said this, chief said the council does not always follow what he recommends. Chief said as for as this particular officer he wished that some of the council members would go and talk to the police office workers. He stated that the officer complained about everything. Jamie asked the chief if he had ever said the he had a problem working with the council and that they table what he wants, chief said he never said that, chief told Jamie he could talk to the employees, Jamie said he is not asking the employees he is speaking on behalf of a citizen who told him this. Chief told Jamie to bring the citizen in, and Jamie stated that the individual was in the audience. Jeremy DiCarlo said that he spoke to Chief after a shooting incident, and he told the chief the town was going down and chief said yes, Jeremy asked what will get done about this and Chief said you cannot get anything done because the council tables everything and he is trying to get police officers for at night and he keeps getting turned down by the council. Chief said Jeremy might have heard that, Jeremy said that is exactly what chief said. Chief said he remembers talking to Mr. DiCarlo about getting officers and stated that it is hard to get officers and he turns things to St. Landry and St. Martin. Jeremy stated that they are not the Chief but he is. Jeremy stated that no one has to be an undercover to stake out a house. Chief stated that he does not have the man power to stake out a house. Jamie stated that for the record, that chief said the council works with him and for the most part whatever chief ask for, raises were given which chief has asked for to retain officers, benefits were discussed and at this time benefits cannot be given, Jamie stated that he was going to work with the Chief in getting something going. Jamie hopes that he and the council have a good working relationship and if there is anything needed he can bring to the council. For the most part nothing will be tabled unless it is something they feel it needs to be tabled. Jamie said he just wants to make it clear that whatever is needed is brought to the board. Jamie said he knows they had differences in the past but he wants to make it clear that he is always here to work with the chief and the police department. Jamie inquired about the department directing traffic; chief said that was stopped due to COVID. Jamie said he spoke with Mary Miller about school issues and he asked if Chief is willing to call the Sheriff's Office and Chief said he has contacted the Sheriff. Due to the resignation of Mr. Vidrine, Chief requests the Council to approve an additional \$2500.00 to cover up patrol for the town until his position is filled. Although Mr. Branson Gauthreaux was approved to be hired as a Provisional Patrol Officer at the last council meeting, due to medical issues he has not been able to start work. Chief is hopeful that he can complete all the requirements necessary by the end of next week in order to begin his employment. Since he has prior experience, his training should consist of learning the Town limits after which he should begin patrolling by the end of the month. Chief again starting interviewing candidates to fill positions allocated. He will let the council know when any suitable personnel are selected for their approval. Statistics for the month of April were: 2 Arrests, 24 Citations, 35 MIC's issued and 97 calls for service.

The \$2500.00 is for contract labor with the parish; Kevin inquired about where chief stood on the budget. Kevin Robin expressed how he felt about Mr. DiCarlo's issues and these matters should be addressed. Kevin Robin moved to add the \$2500.00 to the police budget seconded by Jamie Huval, motion carried. Kevin also stated that Chief should consider his preferences about the female officers. Jamie said the police department has been adjusted but it seems as though officers are not being retained.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

First week of May the Jamboree was held, games were played considering the unfavorable weather conditions, the utility department is assisting with the up-keep in the park.

New Business

Adopt Millage for 2021 General Alimony 5.72 and Water Works 7.00—Mayor

Mayor asked that the Resolution be read in its entirety, Dolores Quebedeaux read the Resolution. Town of Arnaudville, Resolution 2-21 BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2021 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Town of Arnaudville. Millage General Alimony (5129001 & 5139001) 5.720 mills and Water Works (5129002 & 5139002) 7.000 mills BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of St. Landry and St. Martin, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said parishes for the year 2021, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law. The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

Kevin Robin moved to accept the Resolution seconded by Jamie Huval,
Yeas: Kevin Robin, Cynthia Stelly, Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Suzanne Stelly

Nays: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on May 18, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Town of Arnaudville, Louisiana, this 18 day of May 2021.

Dolores R. Quebedeaux

(Signature of authorized person of taxing District)

Change Meeting Date from June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 holding a Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M. (Budget Hearing)--Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to change the meeting from June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 and having a 5:30 P.M. Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M. seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, unanimously carried.

Introduce Ordinance 01-2021-Amending the Budget for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021—Mayor

Suzanne Stelly introduced Ordinance 01-2021. Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Arnaudville, Louisiana that the municipal budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 be amended according to the terms and figures contained in the budget document, seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, motion carried.

Introduce Ordinance 02-2021-The Budget for the Fiscal Year June 20, 2022 be adopted according to the terms and figures contained in the budget document—Mayor

Be it ordained by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Arnaudville, Louisiana that the municipal budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 be adopted according to the terms and figures contained in the budget document, seconded by Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, motion carried.

Noise Ordinance—Jamie Huval

Jamie Huval asked to table the Noise Ordinance, hoping to have a workshop and perhaps make adjustments to the Ordinance.

Ordinance (Abandon Proposed Road)—Mayor

This was skipped due to not owning the land.

Up-Dates—Mayor

Reports were handed out to the board members concerning law suits judgements were made in favor of town (Camp Street). The other was the crawfish ponds and that was also in favor of the town.

Citizens Concerns'

There were concerns about the yellow water and it was explained that one of the wells was done. The new well is in the process of being dug. Normal flushing was not happening due to the well that was down.

Adjourn

Kevin Robin moved to adjourn the May 18, 2021 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Cynthia Stelly, motion passed.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor