

There will be NO fireworks in the Corporate Limits of the Town of Arnaudville.

**Citizens' Concerns**

**Adjourn**

Debbie Kidder motioned to adjourn the December 15, 2020 Regular Town Meeting seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion carried.

**Attest:**

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**Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk**

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**Todd Meche, Mayor**

maintain a top notch operation, even knowing that turnovers will be high. With that said, it is his understanding that Reserve Officer Barry Ard made a request to be put on the agenda and chief did not see where the Mayor or the Council placed this item on the agenda. He is inquiring as to why Mr. Ard's request was not put on the agenda and if it is your intention to put it on the agenda in the near future. The question that chief is trying to resolve, as well as Mr. Ard, is why his Reserve Officer status was removed without the Chief's request. In the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Council meeting the Mayor correctly states the following according to the minutes. "Mayor said that the Council votes only with what is recommended by the Chief of Police". When the Board called a Special Meeting on September 27, 2019 to discuss "Police Matters", they voted to rescind the full time hire of Mr. Barry Ard; there was no request made by him (Chief) as the Chief to have him removed from his Reserve Officer position. An example is if someone is promoted from Lieutenant to Captain then the Council rescinds the promotion, that individual is returned to his Lieutenant position. It then follows that if he did not ask for Mr. Ard to be removed from his Reserve Officer position when you rescinded the full time hire he was returned to his reserve status unless he requested for his removal. It Appears the Council went beyond their authority. He is trying to get clarification on why the reserve status is removed. Mr. Ard worked in that status for a few years and it needs to be maintained for the best interest of the community. Please let chief know so that he can inform Mr. Ard whether he can return as a Reserve Officer or that you will at least give him an opportunity to speak with the Town Council. Chief contacted Chief Deon Boudreaux of the Port Barre Police Department about meeting with the Council regarding the implementation of the "COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT FOR POLICE SERVICES". He was receptive to such a meeting and he informed the Mayor of this. The Mayor was given a phone number to contact Chief Boudreaux and he told chief he had called and that Chief Boudreaux did not return his call. The Mayor informed the chief that he passed on Chief Boudreaux's phone number to each of the Council members in order for them to contact the chief in order to ask whatever questions of concern they might have. He awaits their decision on this particular matter. Statistics for the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of November: 3 Citations, 8 FIC's, 23 MIC's, 2 arrests, and 56 calls for Service.

Mayor stated to chief that a fax was received and he denied putting this on the agenda due to the fact that Barry Ard has no status with the town and has not in some time. Jamie Huval asked if perhaps at next month meeting an Executive Session could be called. Mayor Meche stated that he recommended that there is no Executive Session called due to Mr. Ard having hired an attorney at the time, he stated that he was going to file a lawsuit, this matter was turned in to RMI and its better to let the attorney's handle this matter.

#### **Parks and Recreation---Zelma Jackson (Absent)**

Mayor explained that there is not much taking place in the park due to the weather.

#### **Audit Report—Burton and Brad Kolder**

Burton and Brad went over the high spots on the Audit Report. A Comparison of Total Fund Revenues and Expenditures to Budget Year Ended June 30, 2020. With Comparative Actual Amounts for the Year Ended June 30, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

Burton explained that the Town of Arnaudville is in great standing as far as the Audit is concerned.

A discussion was held.

Jamie Huval and Kevin Robin moved to accept the audit report seconded by, Debbie Kidder and Cynthia Stelly, motion passed.

#### **Up-Dates—Mayor**

The road project is going to start soon weather permitting.

Mayor stated that the new sign at the light is up and they are fixing to add the flag poles.

Mayor thanked all the businesses and the volunteers for helping with the sign.

Mayor also stated that the branch pick-up is off schedule due to the Corona Virus.

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN TAKEN AT REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, 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

**CPA:** Burton Kolder, Brad Kolder

**Utility Superintendent:** Todd Abshire (Absent)

**Police Chief:** Eddy LeCompte

**Parks and Recreation:** Zelma Jackson (Absent)

**Called to Order:** Mayor Meche

**Prayer:** Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge:** All

**Accept November 17, 2020 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor**

Jamie Huval motioned to accept the November 17, 2020 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Accept November 2020 Expenses—Mayor**

Expenses were not completed.

**Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)**

Mayor explained that everything is running smoothly at this time.

**Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte**

Chief stated that he is currently in the process of interviewing with the intent of hiring 2 entries level Patrol Officers. As the Council members are aware, any individual considered must first complete and pass a physiological evaluation and be approved by RMI for insurance coverage prior to any offer being made. As of tonight he has 4 applicants to take the psychological exam since the last Council meeting. Unfortunately, 3 of the applicants did not score well enough to be considered, while the fourth is in the process of deciding. A couple of people have made inquiries; however, they have not come to the office to fill applications.

As the Council can see, the Department is understaffed with regards to Patrol Officers. It is difficult to attract people for these positions for a number of reasons. Chief asked the Council to refrain from making personnel decisions regarding the Police Department. He has no problem with letting each of the aldermen review applications of individuals seeking employment; however, the final decision on hiring should rest with him based on need, experience, and the willingness of the applicant to learn, not on gossip or their prior actions. He encouraged them (board members) to make recommendations regarding the hiring or dismissal of an individual but rest assured he will make decisions based on how those individuals fit within the needs of the Department. Some people are more community oriented as opposed to others but that doesn't mean they are not suited for a particular position. Some may have excellent credentials but fall short when they are on the job and these are easily weeded out. Others may not appear friendly and outgoing but are excellent at performing their duties and those individuals are counseled on ways to improve their community communication skills. Make no mistake; these individuals are also weeded out in due course, most of the time on their own accord, even though their performance in protecting the citizens is outstanding. The bottom line is the fact that he alone knows the needs of the Arnaudville Police Department and will do everything to meet those needs in order to