

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 30, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

Present—Mayor, Todd Meche

Aldermen—Jamie Huval (Phone), Debbie Kidder, Ginger LeCompte, John Taylor

Absent—Suzanne Stelly

Town Clerk—Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney—Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer—Kenny Boagni (Absent)

Police Chief—Josh Ross

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order—Mayor Meche

Prayer—John Ray Taylor

Pledge—All

Old Business

Citizens' Concerns (2 minutes)—Mayor Meche

Rowana Black inquired about the streetlights being out, Mayor Meche stated that if anyone sees a light that is out, they should call the City Hall to report the outage, it is logged into the Entergy Portal with an address, the pole is flagged so the repairman will know which light is out.

Mr. Ryan Petticrew spoke on behalf of the proposed roads. The mayor stated that an attorney was hired due to a conflict on the matter, the mayor is waiting for a report from the attorney.

Adopt December 17, 2024, Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder moved to approve December 17, 2024, regular town meeting minutes seconded by John Taylor, motion carried.

Adopt Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for December 2024—Mayor Meche

John Taylor moved to accept the Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for December 2024 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor Meche complimented the town workers for preparing for the freeze, one worker watched the plant the whole time. The town did not have any major problems. Pressure was not lost. The mayor also complimented the police department for a job well done in the increment weather. Everything is running well at the water plant and sewer plant.

Police Report—Chief Josh Ross

As of January 30, 2025, the Arnaudville Police Department responded to over 110 calls to service, from the beginning of the year, including a few assistances calls for other agencies, and responded to over 46 calls to service within the town limits.

The average response time has been less than 2.5 minutes, and the average time spent on a call is around 19 minutes.

This month, the Arnaudville Police Department has arrested two (2) individuals, for felony level crimes, and another two (2) on misdemeanors. The Officers of the Arnaudville Police Department have also written over thirty-one (31) citations, with three (3) of them being criminal violations this month, including (1) being issued for underage gambling, which was ultimately turned over to LSP-Gaming due to the numerous violations from this establishment.

The current state of the department is as follows:

Investigations: Nothing to report currently.

Staff: The Arnaudville Police Department is fully staffed currently. The staffing is made up of (1) Chief of Police, (5) Police Officers, of which (4) are POST Certified, and (4) dispatchers.

Training Update: Anson will begin the POST Academy sometime this summer, we are just awaiting the training schedule from the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office.

Vehicle Update: N/A

Community Concerns: The members of the Arnaudville Police Department would like to sincerely thank the citizens of the Town of Arnaudville for exercising caution during the winter weather last week. In total, the Arnaudville Police Department responded to 11 calls to service Tuesday-Thursday, including 3 calls for vehicles exiting the roadway, 1 public service call where a family needed a heater delivered, three calls to cut and remove fallen trees, and 3 welfare checks.

As April will be here before you know it, we have also scheduled meetings with the administration of the St. Francis Regis Catholic Church, to begin preparations for the annual Etouffee Festival scheduled April 25th-27th. We will begin pushing this information out as soon as practically available.

Ginger asked if the chief had the authority to pull a business license, Josh stated that the police department does not have the right to shut down a business, but he sends this to the ATC and there must be 3 subsequent transactions on 3 separate days in a 30-day period before they suspend a license. The council has the right to pull a license, Chief and Mayor Meche along with the town attorney are researching this matter regarding the power of the council.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

The baseball program is ongoing.

Adopt Ordinance 07-24 Setting Rates for Public Record—Mayor Meche

Debbie Kidder moved to adopt Ordinance 07-24 Setting Rates as is for Public Records; John Talyor seconded the motion.

Jamie asked the Council to take this into consideration, he feels it's an injustice.

Ginger proposed an amendment to Ordinance 07-24 to change the \$1.00 per page to fifty cents per page, change the flash drive from \$35.00 to \$20.00 and the document for affidavit from \$35.00 to \$20.00 (Verification) not seconded.

The original motion was to accept Ordinance 07-24 as is, roll call: Ginger LeCompte, yes, Debbie Kidder, yes, John Taylor, yes, motion carried.

Act 393 Policy and Proposed Roads (Up-Date)—Dakota Arnaud (Absent)

Up- Dates—Mayor Meche

The water meter project is 100% complete. Training took place again today and the project is working well.

Per Alderwoman Ginger LeCompte requests to amend the minutes to add the following:

On January 30, 2025, the council meeting was ready to adjourn, a fellow council member chose to confront me about a social media post that offended her. None of this was included in the minutes that were presented to us for approval. I motioned that the minutes be amended to reflect this episode. The motion carried with three in favor and one voting no.

On January 27, 2025, while attending a LMA conference Alderwoman LeCompte posted on the Arnaudville Community page the following: "As your newest council woman, I pledged to you that I would focus on ethical and transparent governance. Aside from our never-ending issues around roads, potholes, blight, drainage ditches, street light outages, we must adhere to our laws and codes of ethics. Did you know that each of your elected officials must take ethics training yearly? Thus, there should be no excuse for not knowing about conflicts of interest, no excuse for not following laws and standards regarding road abandonment. I will admit that I don't know what I don't know, but I'm here. Running into many municipal mayors, council members, clerks and others. I'll have to assume that our reps already know all this stuff, because I'm here alone. Just an observation. No judgement."

When read by Alderwoman Debbie Kidder she felt that Alderwoman LeCompte would have shared her positive learnings with her team as opposed to posting negative feedback on a community website.

Adjourn

John Taylor moved to adjourn January 30. 2025 meeting seconded by Debbie Kidder motion carried

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor