

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A  
REGUAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE  
ARNAUVILE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUVILLE, LA 70512**

**Mayor**—Todd Meche

**Aldermen**—Jamie Huval, Debbie Kidder, Kevin Robin, Suzanne Stelly, John Taylor

**Town Clerk**—Dolores R. 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**—Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge**—All

Mayor Meche asked the board to amend the agenda to add street crossing on Union Street, Kevin Robin moved to amend the agenda and add street crossing seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Approve February 28, 2023, Regular Town Meeting Minutes**—Mayor Meche  
Kevin Robin and Suzanne Stelly moved to approve the February 28, 2023, Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Approve Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for February 2023**—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin and John Taylor moved to accept the Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for February 2023 seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

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

A report was handed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen prepared by Todd Abshire.

WATER- The entire water system was flushed during the month of February. The monthly Safe Drinking Water Act daily chloring residual logs were verified by Todd Abshire and are on file in the utility office as required by law.

WASTEWATER- There aren't any major issues to report regarding the town's wastewater system. 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- Two employees were sent on Natural Gas training during the month of February, Lee Mallet requalified (we are required to requalify every 3 years) and Steve Bourque was initially qualified. With Steve's qualification completion, all utility department personnel are qualified, and their qualification records are on file in the utility department office. Pipeline Safety will be performing a "Comprehensive Inspection" on the entire system during the month of April. The utility department is in the process of preparing for the inspection and we do not anticipate any major issues during the preparation and inspection. The gas system is operating at near 40 pounds of inlet pressure at the Cypress Station and 40 psi at the Koch Station.

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the utility report seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

**Police Report--Chief Josh Ross**

As of March 28, 2023, the Arnaudville Police Department has responded to over 115 calls to service the beginning of the year, I am proud to say that only one crime remains an open investigation currently, which we are still in the process of working.

Most people in the neighborhood by now, should see an increase in police presence, as we have been in the residential neighborhood focusing on traffic enforcement, particularly speeding, when reported, with officers conducting stationery and moving radar.

As of the last meeting, the Arnaudville Police Department has issued 21 traffic citations for various offenses such as speeding, illegal widow tint, driving under suspension and driving without a license, 7 criminal misdemeanor citations, for offenses such as paraphernalia, illegal narcotic, illegal burning, and additional 3 citations were written to individuals on bicycles. I would like to add that close to

70% of the total citations, were issued in residential neighborhoods, where the police department is aggressively monitoring speeding violations, especially in the early afternoons when schools let out, and children are playing.

The Arnaudville Police Department has successfully investigated several felony complaints, which have resulted in arrest warrants being issued, and several arrests being made. One search warrant was also conducted on a vehicle, in which some methamphetamine was recovered. One additional Narcotics investigation is currently underway and has thus far recovered a descent amount of methamphetamine, ecstasy, and pills. These are narcotics which were meant for the streets here in Arnaudville and have been stopped.

The current state of the department is as follows:

**Investigations:** Since the last time we met, the Arnaudville Police D, along with some public assistance, has been able to successfully solve three burglaries, of which two were residential and one was a local business. We would like to remind everyone to ensure they are checking on and updating their information with the alarm company, so the police department is appropriately dispatched.

**Staffing:** Currently we have three full-time Police Officers, of which, one is attending the academy, and one is awaiting the results of his psychological exam. We are currently in the process of interviewing other qualified candidates and working on filling all vacant spots. With an average turnaround time of approximately 3-4- weeks for a psychological exam, we are working with RMI and Spartan to lessen this time. I would also like to reassure everyone that while we are short-staffed, what we lack in quantity, we make up for in quality. The town is protected 24/7, and we have not had to utilize any taxpayers' dollars hiring another agency for shift work.

**Town Council Report:**

**Training Update:** Currently Office Parker Blanchard is attending the St. Martin Parish P.O.S.T. Academy, and he is scheduled to graduate April 20, 2023. Officer Blanchard is currently in the running for Top Academic in his academy class. Once Officer Blanchard is certified the Arnaudville Police Department will look at sending at least two officers to the juvenile Academy, as Juvenile Offenders seems to be an ongoing problem.

**Vehicle Update:** The Arnaudville Police Department has completed the purchase of two police patrol vehicles. One of the vehicles is a Dodge Charger and the other is a Ford Explorer.

Both vehicles have been stripped and are currently awaiting the lights to be installed via 10-8 tactical, which have been ordered.

**General Information:** I would like to also thank the citizens for their cooperation and willingness to assist all Police Officers from the Arnaudville Police Department with various information pertaining to crimes in the area. As the police department continues to transition, the Arnaudville Police Department will continue to build rapport with the citizens and assist when needed.

**Upcoming:** I will be meeting with members from St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church in reference to the upcoming Etouffee Festival, and I will present more information on this in the April meeting.

**Community Concerns:** The Arnaudville Police Department is currently working with Nextdoor, a community watch app, which will allow members of the community to post issues including photos in real time to the officer on duty. This is not meant as a reporting system, but in a neighborhood watch program. Nextdoor will also allow the Arnaudville Police Department to send out push notifications, via the app alerting residents of any critical information in real time, such as traffic closures or detours, inclement weather reports, or pictures of found animals, etc....

This platform does not charge members of the community or any public safety organization, so this service will be provided free of charge. We are expecting to launch an official Arnaudville Page within the next month.

**Requester:** At this time, I would ask the council to amend or move the \$6,000 budgeted for tasers, and transfer it to the vehicle fund, as since we purchased two vehicles of one, we will incur some additional costs with purchasing 2 cages, outfitting 2 with lights and ensuring all proper equipment is purchased, while more than likely remaining under budget, we just want to be safe.

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

Mayor Meche reported that all is going well in the park, baseball is fixing to start.

**New Business**

**Approve Public Hearing Minutes (Ordinance 3-2023 Sell Old Library)—Mayor Meche**

Kevin Robin motioned to approve Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Approve Public Hearing Minutes (Ordinance 01-2023 Setting Elected Officials Salaries)—Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval moved to accept the Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly and Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Approve Public Hearing Minutes (Ordinance 2-2023 Setting Board Meetings for the fourth Tuesday of the Month)—Mayor Meche**

John Taylor moved to accept the Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed,

**Approve Special Meeting Minutes March 8, 2023 (Police Dept. and Resolution)—Mayor Meche**

Kevin Robin moved to approve Special Meeting Minute Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Approve Special Meeting Minutes March 14, 2023 (Dispatcher/Police Officers)—Mayor Meche**

John Taylor moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Adopt Ordinance 04-2023 An Ordinance of the Town of Arnaudville Amending Section 2-112 Work Conditions to add Juneteenth—Mayor Meche**

Jamie Huval moved to accept Ordinance 04-2023 seconded by Debbie Kidder, Roll Call: Kevin Robin, yea, Jamie Huval, yea, Debbie Kidder, yea, Suzanne Stelly, yea, John Taylor, yea motion passed.

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

**Adopt Resolution 5-23 WMPP (Municipal Water Pollution Prevention)—Mayor Meche**

Kevin Robin moved to adopt Resolution 5-23 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**French Proclamation—Mayor Meche**

March is known as the International Month of the French Language and Heritage, and we wish to reaffirm our ties with the rest of the French-speaking and French-friendly world, Debbie Kidder motioned to adopt the French Proclamation seconded by Suzanne Stelly and Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Open Bids—Mayor Meche**

Dave Dupuis bid 2009 Nissan Sentra \$256.00, 2007 Chevy Sentra \$256.00, 2011 Chevy Impala \$256.00.

Rhonda Ordoyne bid, 2009 Nissan Sentra \$510.00

Bill Angelle bid, 2009 Nissan Sentra \$100.00, Box Trailer \$150.00.

Ross Meche bid, Box Trailer \$1100.75.

JJ Merchants (James Durham) bid, Box Trailer \$1077.77, 2004 Waukesha \$777.77, Nissan Sentra \$1577.77, 2007 Chevy Impala \$277.77, 2011 Chevy Impala \$577.77.

Mike Lofton bid, Box Trailer \$701.00.

Greg Cormier bid, Box Trailer \$350.00.

Motion was made by Debbie Kidder to accept the high bid on the items seconded by John Taylor and Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

**Union Street Culvert—Mayor Meche**

Mayor Meche explained that the culvert on Union Street needs to be replaced because it is collapsing, Elliott construction quoted the job to cost \$14,500.00, motion was by Debbie Kidder to get the culvert replaced seconded by John Taylor, Suzanne Stelly, Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Up-Date—Mayor Meche**

Two letters were sent this week from the Governor's Office stating that the grants that were applied for Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) \$15,000.00 was awarded to the town, these funds will replace used water lines, water meters and lines. Also, Louisiana Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) is in the amount of \$12,069.00 for a lawn mower, tiller and boring machine.

Jamie Huval stated that he wants to make sure everyone is on board for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display at the park, he needs to get bids to see how much the fireworks would cost. Jamie will get figures to bring to the board to add to the next budget year. Mayor said he will have to call RMI to see what is needed from the Insurance.

Debbie Kidder said this past weekend she had the Etouffee Pageant. She said she is proud of the town everyone came together; she thanked Melanie Robin (Russell's Food Center) for providing food for the judges and the pageant workers on Saturday and Sunday. She also thanked Kevin Robin (Lil Big Cup) for providing the beautiful plants for the decorations. Also, thanked Police Chief Joss Ross for providing police protection.

Kevin Robin said that this was a special week in the Town of Arnaudville, he wanted to take a few moments, the council expressed their thoughts and remembrance of working for the town for the former Chief of Police, Eddy LeCompte. There was a feeling of camaraderie and family in the town, the expression of sympathy and just what it means to be in a little town called Arnaudville. Everyone is better getting along instead of pulling apart. This is in memory of Chief Eddy LeCompte.

**Citizen's Concerns**

**Adjourn**

Kevin Robin and Debbie Kidder motioned to adjourn the Regular Town Meeting seconded by John Taylor, motion passed.

**Attest:**

  
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Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

  
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Todd Meche, Mayor