

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 25, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512**

**Mayor**—Todd Meche

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

**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**—Suzanne Stelly

**Pledge**—All

Mayor Meche asked the Board Members to amend the agenda to add Adam Olivier for abandoning proposed roads, Debbie Kidder moved to amend the agenda seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Approve Public Hearing Minutes March 28, 2023 (Ordinance 04-2023**

**Juneteenth)**—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin motioned to accept the Public Hearing Minutes March 28, 2023, seconded by Jamie Huval and John Taylor, motion passed.

**Approve Regular Town Meeting Minutes March 28, 202**—Mayor Meche

Kevin Robin moved to accept the Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

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

John Taylor and Suzanne Stelly moved to accept the financial statement seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

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

Mayor reported that on Thursday the water pressure dropped to almost nothing, the utility department thought it was an electrical problem, but it was not. It happened to be a cell tower problem which led to no communication. It caused dirty water, so the utility workers are flushing the lines.

Two sprockets at the sewer plant will have to be replaced on the bar screen, the cost being approximately \$11,000.

Well #2 was chlorinated, air was in the lines from pulling the screen, the well is being monitored.

**Police Report—Chief Josh Ross**

As of April 24, 2023, the Arnaudville Police Department has responded to over 200 calls to service, since the beginning of the year, working with only one officer on the night shift, one officer on the day shift, and myself working into the night. This month, the Arnaudville Police Department has arrested seven people for various felony charges, including threatening to bomb city hall, Possession of a Firearm in the presence of Narcotics, Battery on a Police Officer, and Burglary. The Arnaudville Police Department has also issued several misdemeanor citations for violations such as Theft, Possession of Paraphernalia, Possession of Marijuana, and Criminal Trespass. Several others have been issued citations for offenses such as speeding, illegal window tint, no insurance, and suspended licenses.

The current state of the department is as follows:

**Investigations:** Since the last time we met, the Arnaudville Police Department, along with some public assistance, has been able to successfully solve one (1) burglary, which had taken place in a residential neighborhood. 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 (3) full-time Police Officers. 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.

**Training Update:** Officer Parker Blanchard graduated the St. Martin Parish P.O.S.T Academy on April 20, 2023. He is now P.O.S.T Certified.

**Vehicle Update:** No Updates.

**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 progress, the Arnaudville Police Department will continue to build rapport with the citizens and assist when needed.

Community Concerns:

This weekend, the Town of Arnaudville welcomes the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Etouffee Festival, hosted by St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church. A security plan has been established with church officials and is included in your packet for review on your own time. This packet includes a list of closures, which have been approved by the LA Department of Transportation. To put it clearly, I would also like to reassure everyone that while we are short staffed, and have the festival going on, what we lack is quantity, we make up for in quality. The town will be protected 24/7, and an officer will be patrolling both day and night during the festival. St. Landry and St. Martin will be supplying additional officers for assistance at the festival; however, all incidents will be dealt with by the Arnaudville Police Department.

Requests:

At this time, I would ask the council to approve a pay rate change for Officer Parker Blanchard from \$14.08 per hour to \$15.08 per hour in accordance with the Ordinance, as he recently completed his P.O.S.T. certification. I would also ask the council to consider the hiring of Aaronisha Washington, who is P.O.S.T Certified, at a rate of \$15.08 per hour. I would also like to ask the council to approve the closures of Pine Street, the section that runs from Main to Front, approve to turn Front Street into a one-way, funneling from Fuselier to Guidroz, and 200-300 block of Main Street (From the Little Flower to before Butches), where the festival will take place.

Jamie Huval made a motion to grant Officer Parker Blanchard a raise from \$14.08 to \$15.08 per hour, seconded by Kevin Robin, motion carried.

Jamie Huval made a motion to hire Aaronisha Washington (Post Certified) at \$15.08 per hour seconded by Kevin Robin, motion passed.

Jamie Huval motioned to close all roads for the Etouffee Festival seconded by John Taylor, motion passed.

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

Mayor stated that the Baseball Tournament will be held May 6-7, 2023.

Jamie Huval said that he met with Ms. Zelma and there will be 2 baseball games on July 1<sup>st</sup>. One will be a Tee Ball game and the other will be for older children.

Jamie is not exactly sure of the time, but concessions will be sold. The cost will be \$3.00 per adult and \$2.00 for children at the end of the games there will be a fire works display. The display should be about 13 minutes and the cost are approximately \$1500.00.

Kevin Robin suggested face painting for the children, he will get with Ms. Zelma to coordinate this.

A brief discussion was held on the hiring of police officers. Different views were discussed.

**New Business**

**Abandon Streets—Mayor/Adam Olivier**

Adam Olivier asked the council to consider abandoning (proposed streets) West Street and North Mills Street that do not physically exist. Mr. Olivier owns property next to those streets. Jamie Huval suggested having a workshop to consider abandoning or selling these streets whatever area they explore they need to come to a decision.

Mayor stated that he will get the attorney and the engineer to get a current map which shows which streets were abandoned in the past.

**Up-Dates—Mayor**

Mayor invited everyone to come out and enjoy the Etouffee Festival.

Everyone was thanked for the weeding and taking care of the plants in the town.

Signs on the telephone post were discussed.

**Citizens' Concerns**

Jeremy DiCarlo inquired about the flushing of the lines; Mayor explained that there is a process which must be followed.

**Adjourn**

Kevin Robin moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting seconded by Suzanne Stelly, John Taylor, Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

**Attest:**

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Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

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Todd Meche, Mayor