

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2022, 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, Suzanne Stelly

Absent—Cynthia Stelly

Town Clerk—Dolores R. Quebedeaux (Absent)

Town Attorney—Kay Theunissen

Town Engineer—Kenny Boagni

Police Chief—Eddy LeCompte (Absent)

Utility Superintendent—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order—Mayor, Todd Meche

Prayer—Suzanne Stelly

Pledge—All

Accept September 13, 2022, Public Hearing Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the September 13, 2022, Public Hearing Minutes seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Accept September 13, 2022, Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the September 13, 2022, Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, motion passed.

Accept Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for July 2022—Mayor

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the budget to actual/ budget comparison for July 2022 seconded by Jamie Huval, motion carried.

Accept Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for August 2022—Mayor

Kevin Robin moved to accept the budget to actual/budget comparison for August 2022 seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Accept Budget to Actual/Budget Comparison for September 2022—

Mayor

Debbie Kidder moved to accept the budget to actual/budget comparison for September 2022 seconded by Jamie Huval, motion passed.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Mayor explained that everything is fixed at the sewer plant, and all is working properly. The sewer lift station on St. Landry Street had to be repaired, all is up and running.

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Toby Legrand read Chief's LeCompte's report.

We are happy to inform you that presently we are still at capacity with police officers. We are still accepting applications with the hope of getting qualified candidates and having them on file, in case we lose officers in the future. We currently have five Patrol Officers on the roster. We now have one officer (Officer Blanchard) working the night shifts with Sergeant Legrand working nights Wednesday and Thursday to give Officer Blanchard time off. We now have one officer (Officer Deville) working day shifts and Sergeant Legrand working Monday and Tuesday to give Officer Deville time off. The two officers, Officer Blake Aleman and Jacoby Briscoe attending the police academy are doing great. They have approximately four weeks to complete the police academy on November 17, 2022.

We would like to inform the council that Officer Parker Blanchard, Blake Aleman, and Jacoby Briscoe have been working for the Police Department for over six months and we would ask the council to increase their pay up pay grade 2 step 33, \$14.01 per hour.

We also want to inform the council that the Police Department received an email from Courtesy Ford in Breaux Bridge from Don Simmons with Fleet Sales, informing us that the manufacturer Ford has discontinued contracts for 2022 and cancelled all contracts they had with agencies and consumers that had ordered. There will be attached copies of the information that Mr. Simmons and Ford Motor Corporation sent with this Police Report. We would like to ask the council due to this change if we could hold up until next fiscal year and hold the money already allocated for a unit in this budget year, for the next fiscal year. The Police Department would like to ask for two units for the next budget year.

We want to let the council know that for the Halloween Festivities' there will be streets we will need barricades for the traffic to be a one way. The Police Department is requesting for October 29, 2022, between the hours of 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., that Washington Street, Swamp and Quebedeaux Streets be barricaded one-way streets, only Olive and Fourth streets in the area of the streets above be shut down for no traffic to pass during the festivities.

Statistics for the Arnaudville Police Department for September 2022 were: 1 arrest, 11 citations, 13 FIC's, 23 MIC's, 2 accidents, 1 assist call and 74 calls for service. I would also like to point out that during the month more than 50% of the time worked by our Officers were spent on routine patrol and taking complaint calls from our town. The St. Landry Sheriff's Office also worked one day, and the numbers above

vary due to their report to their agency, and we do not get the activity report.

Jamie suggested ordering the vehicle, he said it may come in before the next fiscal year.

Jamie Huval moved to increase the pay rate for Parker Blanchard, Blake Aleman and Jacoby Briscoe to pay grade 2 step 33, \$14.01 per hour seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Jamie Huval moved to allow the police department to re-direct traffic for Halloween seconded by Debbie Kidder, motion passed.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson

Mayor Meche updated the council of what is going on with the park.

Report—Sheriff Bobby Guidroz

Sheriff Guidroz explained that he was at this meeting to discuss a press release that was put together by his office along with his help. This was regarding an investigation that was done for the town on one of the clerical workers. Sheriff apologized to the Mayor and the Council and the people of the town. The information contained in the press release was way off. It was said there was \$100,000 missing, it was not \$100,000. Sheriff Guidroz contacted the new media to correct this, but they would not do this Sheriff said that he was sorry that this happened, and this was not done intentionally. Sheriff apologized to family members of the deceased, Cynthia Stelly's family and to all. Sheriff said that they are not transparent.

Sheriff Guidroz stated that he is willing to help the town in whatever is needed from his office.

Audit Report—Burton Kolder-Brad Kolder

Burton Kolder touched the high spots on the audit report. There are some verbal corrections that need to be taken care of, but nothing

major. About the money that was misappropriated it was said that this was not reported to the Sheriff Office, the District Attorney's office and the Legislative Auditors, this was untrue. Burton explained that he was called by Mayor Meche and the town attorney on the morning this all took place. The mayor spoke with the Legislative Auditor's office and wrote a letter to them. He spoke to the District Attorney as well as he (Burton) contacted them as well. Everything that needed to be done for the situation was done properly. The person that did the accusing contacted Burton and he explained that everything was done correctly, and the person was fine with that response. Three weeks later he received a letter from the Legislative Auditors, Burton again called the Legislative Auditor's office, upon their review, they said everything was handled properly as it should have been by the town.

Burton highlighted the town's audit report for gas, water and sewer departments for the fiscal year.

Brad Kolder went over the Comparison of Total Fund and Revenues and Expenditures to Budget year ended June 30, 2022.

With Comparative Actual Amounts for year Ended June 30, 2021, 2020, and 2019.

The town is financially healthy.

A motion was made by Jamie Huval to accept the Audit Report seconded by Debbie Kidder; motion passed.

Up-Dates—Mayor

Mayor updated the Council members during the Utility Report.

Jamie asked the Council to consider by the next meeting to possibly set down speed bumps down Swamp St., Quebedeaux St., Washington St.

People have been complaining about speeders down those streets. Mayor stated that perhaps 4 ways stop signs would be better for these streets.

Citizens Concerns'

Jamie stated that the Nativity Scene will be at the same location as last year, the opening ceremony will be, November 19, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. The Arnaudville Elementary Christmas Parade will be December 14, 2022. The time has not yet been set. If anyone wants to participate in the parade the floats are \$20.00 a float. All monies raised will go to the Arnaudville Elementary School for repairs.

Adjourn

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

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Todd Meche, Mayor

