

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TAKEN AT A REGULAR TOWN MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ARNAUDVILLE MEETING ROOM, LOCATED AT 107 RUE DE JAUSIERS, ARNAUDVILLE, LA

PRESENT: Mayor Kathy M. Richard

Aldermen: Annette Bramlett, Jamie Huval, Todd Meche, Louis Stelly, Jr., Suzanne Stelly

Town Clerk: Dolores R. Quebedeaux

Town Attorney: Katie Haik

Town Engineer: Kenny Boagni

Police Chief: Eddy LeCompte

Utility Superintendent: Todd Abshire (Absent)

Parks and Recreation Director: Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Called to Order: Mayor Richard

Prayer: Suzanne Stelly

Pledge: All

Accept January 17, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Jamie Huval moved to accept the January 17, 2017 Regular Town Meeting Minutes seconded by Suzanne Stelly, unanimously carried.

Accept January 25, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes—Mayor

Mr. Louis Stelly, Jr., moved to accept the January 25, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes seconded by Jamie Huval and Annette Bramlett, unanimously carried.

Accept January 2017 Expenses—Mayor

Annette Bramlett and Jamie Huval moved to accept the January 2017 Expenses seconded by Louis Stelly, Jr., unanimously carried.

Utility Report—Todd Abshire (Absent)

Police Report—Chief Eddy LeCompte

Patrol Officer Anna White recently completed one week of training for the JCARD team being formed in the Acadiana Region. JCARD, which is an acronym for Joint Child Abduction Rapid Development, is being sponsored by the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). This is the second JCARD team to be started in the State, the first being in the Baton Rouge area. The purpose of the team is to act as a rapid deployment group in cases of abductions and the mysterious disappearances of children. Since the inception of these teams nationally, 54% of

abducted children were found alive when the team was deployed within 24 hours of the child being reported missing. However when the team was deployed within 24 hours of the child being reported missing. However, when the team was deployed more than 72 hours after the child was reported missing, no victims were found alive. Officer White was one of over 50 law enforcement members who were trained and was assigned as a member of one of the two teams formed in our region. Interesting to note that, since April 2015, when the JCARD team was established in Baton Rouge they were deployed three times to assist with locating missing/abducted children. On all three occasions, the child was found alive.

As the Council has been informed in the past, each Patrol Officer must complete twenty hours of in-service training during a calendar year to maintain their POST certification. Although some training is provided by the POST Council online, most of the training is done outside the Department attended training, which was given at no cost, in Baton Rouge involving a two hour case study involving the Sandy Hook incident, reviewing the shooting that occurred at an elementary school and two hour case study of Samantha Runnion, reviewing the abduction and murder of a child.

With the Etouffee Festival just two months away the Department has been reviewing problems that presented itself last year to be addressed. Except for a couple of minor infractions, making Front Street one way running North/South from the Tiger Touchdown grocery store to Union Street was very successful. There were very little problems with parking or the movement of traffic. This was not the case on Olive Street from Pine Street to Guidroz Street. This section of Olive Street was a constant problem concerning parking and the smooth movement of traffic. There was barely enough room for vehicles traveling in opposite direction to pass each other. At times people had to back up in order to facilitate the movement of the vehicles and some heated discussions were overheard. In order to alleviate these problems the Department had decided to turn Olive Street into a one way street from Pine Street to Guidroz Street running South/North. This will create a circle around the cemetery and festival area. All signs and /or traffic controls will only be in place during the times posted for the Etouffee Festival itself.

Chief stated that he received a notice from Patrol Officer Zachary Williams' decision to end his employment at the Arnaudville Police Department effective immediately. It was a pleasure working with Patrol Officer Williams and Chief wishing him the best in his new endeavors. Zachary will be missed.

Statistics for the Arnaudville Police Department for the month of January were: 46 Citations, 41 FIC's, 55 MIC's, 5 arrests and 155 calls for service.

Employee of the Month is Patrolman Joseph Carriere.

Parks and Recreation—Zelma Jackson (Absent)

Third Circuit Court of Appeal—Candyce Gagnard (Absent)

Floating Dock (Address Chamber of Commerce)—Willie Wyble

Willie thanked the Mayor and Board Members for allowing him to speak. Willie stated that he is addressing the Chamber of Commerce. Willie asked the board members if they had officially appointed a Liaison from the Town, Mayor Richard stated that they had not appointed anyone. Willie said that there were statements made that everyone who is sitting here knows that the Teche group has never in 3 years as UL or the Teche Project tried to work with them. They have come to town meetings and tried to rattle and rattle on to get things passed that did not make any sense. The Teche Project has come with documents, many documents signed, and proposals. Willie said to his knowledge none of these are valid. Willie stated that his reason for being at the meeting is to stop this group that keeps going around and wanting to defend the Teche Group. Willie said "If you are right you are right, if you are wrong you are wrong", he applauds the board members to have gone out of their way in regards to the Teche Project. The Teche group has been a thorn in their sides, why did they not come and get together a year ago. No one is against the floating dock, but, is the Chamber in a position that they are for a dock only or are they for a boat launch also. Were the members made aware of this when the documents were signed? The piece of paper that was signed shows that there is no concern for anyone.

Willie also asked why the Teche Project keeps bringing this matter back to the town, the church property is not town property, he said that this is putting a match in a fire that should have been put out a long time ago. They should be doing things right instead of constantly passing the problem. Mayor said that the Chamber wants to promote for the town and bring businesses in town. Mayor said that the parties need to get together. Willie said that of the three docks that are built and the future ones being built they are all on land that belongs to the church or is leased by a municipality. Willie asked where was the grant monies coming from, Arnaudville is not even on the radar. This keeps coming back and is not going anywhere. Todd Meche said that the attorney sent a letter Feb. 10, 2016 to Mr. Domingue about the Teche Project and the church stating that the grant was applied for without the town having any knowledge of any of this.

Todd said that the town does not have the authority to build this and the town is

not assuming liability. The parishioners of the church and the citizens' of Arnaudville are not in agreement and for the project, this will not happen. Grants will have to be applied for again because the money is no longer available. Willie stated that they are not taking applications for grant monies until July 2017. Todd said that the application will have to be re-done due to the fact that the first one was incorrect and could not proceed the way that it was done. If all of this would have been done correctly the dock would be complete. No one should apply for grants on behalf of the town without consulting with the Mayor and the Board Members. The Parish President applied for a grant for a Trail Head, he applied for a grant on church property and the grant stated that the Town of Arnaudville was responsible for the maintenance and the care. The board knew nothing about this. It is not the town councils place to dictate what goes on, on church property. Todd Meche said that he has encouraged Father Brown to have a meeting with the parishioners. Todd feels that an alternate spot for the floating dock should be taking into consideration due to the fact that they cannot get answers from the church. Willie said that the Teche Project needs to understand that they are not against the project but people need to work together and get the project completed. There are several easements that the town owns, but legal clarification would have to take place. Willie said that this is beating a dead horse; every meeting is the same thing with nothing new. Mr. Louis Stelly, Jr., asked if these people are aware of the liabilities. The church has made it clear that they will not accept liability.

Teche Project—Melanie Robin

Melanie spoke on behalf of the Teche Project, Melanie stated that she is one of the oldest businesses in the Town. Approximately four or five years ago she received a call from someone stating the they were going to clean out the trash from the bayou, she was asked if she would like to help with the clean-up, Melanie brought her boat, piles of trash were taken out of the bayou, more than someone could imagine. These people cleaned the bayou on several occasions. These people wanted the bayou to look pretty. Then this turned into the Teche Project. These people kept giving of their time, making fund raisers. There is three years these people have had a festival. Melanie stated that no one is trying to put anyone in a spot. Melanie stated that grants have been written, the project has received grants. Arnaudville was the first selected to receive a floating dock; no one has ever put anyone's name on a document. Melanie stated that this project is in support of economic growth. Suzanne Stelly stated that the town does not own the property and what else is there to do. Melanie said that

this is a free give away. Melanie stated that she has not heard anything from the Bishop nor Father Brown, Father Brown does not return her phone calls. Melanie feels that this project will not work due to a deficiency. Mayor Richard said that she would like to see groups of people working together to bring growth into the town. Mayor stated that the town runs on a tight budget. Mayor asked that people start setting their differences aside and work together. She said that she is willing to work with all of the people.

Mayor Richard asked engineer Kenny Boagni to check the map to see what land the town has that would be available to perhaps re-locate the floating dock.

Melanie asked if the floating dock is granted to the town, will the town assume liability and up-keep of the ground. Mayor Richard stated that this project has to be studied before the town commits. Todd Meche stated that the paper work has to be re-done per the town attorney.

Ditches and Streets—Eugene Arnaud

Eugene Arnaud stated that the ditches need to be dug to allow for better drainage. If the streets are repaired and the drainage is not done the ditching machine would break the streets. Mayor Richard stated to Mr. Arnaud that the culvert cleaner is in the shop for repairs.

Executive Session (Water Tower)—Mayor

Todd Meche moved to enter into Executive Session seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Todd Meche moved to enter into the Regular Meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Citizens' Concerns—Mayor

Willie Wyble stated that what he said at the beginning of the meeting he can back this up. Willie said that the town should keep in mind that if the town should have to lease or buy land it should be big enough to have a boat launch and a floating dock. Mayor Richard said she is trying to get the grant money back for the boat launch that was returned to the state due to individuals who voted against the boat launch. Huey Wyble stated that on behalf of the Arnaudville Chamber of Commerce, he thanked Willie Wyble for his concerns on how the chamber should or should not conduct business. The Chamber of Commerce has to report to the people it serves, that is the businesses of Arnaudville. In 2016 the chamber pledged to attend the Arnaudville Council meetings in order to inform the business owners of community affairs and to convey their voices before the council, keeping the Council members aware of the economic interest of their constituents. The Chamber asked the business owners if they are in favor of the

floating dock project. This project having been on the City Council agenda, should the boat landing or any other project that represents a potential for economic developments be on the City Councils agenda the Chamber will ask the business owners their opinion on the matter and convey their voices before the City Council. Patti Holland said that there have been lots of discussions about the project and what they do.

Resolutions are needed to be filled out the applications no later than June 2017. Suzanne Stelly stated that the Bishop can be reached if the right person is contacted. Mr. Aymar Bonin stated that if the only problem is contacting Father Brown, he said he can meet with the Bishop. Mayor stated that the engineer will look into the town's property. George Marks asked if the town was agreeing to support a Resolution or not. Mayor said that they will have to wait and see if there is another location. Todd Meche stated that a Resolution is possible if the property is town property.

Adjourn

Todd Meche moved to adjourn the February 2017 meeting seconded by Jamie Huval

Mayor Richard asked to make a statement before leaving the meeting.

Mayor said that it is time for all to get together and work together; Mayor stated that an individual called her and asked her to use the meeting room on Monday to have a meeting a 15 minute meeting. As Mayor, she has the right to allow someone to use the meeting room, she stated that she does not judge who they are, what they represent, etc. These people pay taxes in the town; the meeting room was not used for a party or a reception. Mayor stated that she would not have let these people use the building if this would have been illegal. Whatever these people do that is up to them. She feels the council members trust her judgement. Mayor stated that anyone who comes into this town is accepted in her heart, black, white, rich, and poor, gay; alcoholic everyone is equal in her eyes. She stated that she gets very upset because matters just escalate. Mayor also stated that no one has any idea on what it takes to run a town and follow proper procedures. Todd Meche stated that the Parish President made a statement on the radio; he said that he would like to have a Resolution that the Parish President clarifies his statement or apologizes to the Town of Arnaudville for suggesting that people are saying (French Emersion) brings in hippies and gay people. He said that maybe some people feel this way, but he needs to clarify his statement. The Community as a whole does not feel this way. The art people are

supported by the town they may not always agree on certain things, but all people have been supported.

Todd Meche stated that the Hospital Board is a public board and he would have done exactly what the Mayor did about the meeting room. George Marks stated that they are not a board. Todd Meche stated that until the courts rule, they are still a public board. George stated that the town should not be involved. George said that Todd and Jamie spoke against St. Luke's hospital. Jamie said that he did not once speak against the hospital; he said he is not against the French Emersion program. Jamie Huval stated that he went to the meeting with the intention of having questions answered and wanted this clarified. Todd Meche said there is an issue; they have been receiving correspondence from the parish. There is an assistant district attorney from both parishes that stated that the hospital board cannot be abolished, so this is left up to a judge to decide. George Marks had concerns about what the public thinks about the town's involvement. Jamie Huval stated that Bill Fontenot said that everyone has an opinion, so do they. Todd Meche moved to adjourn the February 2017 meeting seconded by Jamie Huval, unanimously carried.

Attest:

Dolores R. Quebedeaux, Town Clerk

Kathy M. Richard, Mayor